

2000



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IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

Left's NEC victory deals blow to Blair

TONY BLAIR suffered his biggest setback since becoming Labour leader last night as left-wingers captured four seats on the party's ruling body, the National Executive Committee (NEC).

The result of the ballot among Labour's 380,000 members was a clear warning to Mr Blair that he could not take the support of his party for granted, and that many activists have reservations about his New Labour "project".

As first predicted in *The Independent* two weeks ago, the left won four of the six seats representing constituency parties on the NEC. To Mr Blair's embarrassment, the winners included Liz Davies, a former Islington councillor, who was barred as parliamentary candidate in Leeds North East because of her headline views.

Left-wingers were jubilant when the results were announced during the opening session of Labour's annual conference in Blackpool. Three other members of their Grassroots Alliance were elected to the NEC: Mark Seddon, editor of *Tyburn* newspaper, who topped the poll; Cathy Jamieson, a leading Scottish activist, and Pete Williams, a former ally of Tony Benn.

The only members of the Blairite Members' First slate to be successful were Michael Cashman, the actor and gay rights campaigner and Diana Jenda, an official with Usdaw, the shopworkers' union. The left slate won a total of 342,000 votes, while the Blairites managed only 311,000.

The results, due to be announced on Wednesday, were rushed out last night in an attempt to stop Mr Blair's looming defeat casting a shadow over the conference and his keynote speech tomorrow.

But the left could win another victory on Wednesday, when Dennis Skinner, the left-

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

wing MP for Bolsover, may retain his place on the NEC despite moves by Blairite MPs to replace him.

Privately, Mr Blair's allies admitted he had been given a "bloody nose". One said: "We pulled out all the stops and we still lost 4-2. There is no point in pretending it's anything other than a bad defeat."

But his aides insisted Mr Blair would still enjoy a commanding majority on the 32-member NEC and that there would be no change in the party's direction.

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The Prime Minister sought to defuse grassroots criticism of his leadership by holding a question-and-answer session when the Labour conference opened yesterday. But he told the delegates bluntly that the party had won its landslide victory last year because he had modernised it. "We forget why we won, and we go back to square one again," he said.

Mr Blair warned his internal party critics: "The choice you've got is not between the Labour government of your dreams and the Labour government you've got. The choice is between the Labour government you've got and a Tory government."

He told the four left-wingers not to use their new NEC as a platform to attack the Government. "What I say to people is 'critical support fine, but if people go into outright opposition that doesn't help anyone'."

However, the left was cock-a-hoop at scoring a rare victory over Mr Blair after being in the wilderness since he became party leader in 1994. "It is a vote to keep the party Labour," said Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East. "Most of those who ran as New Labour candidates have not won. It shows that people in the party want to increase tax, spend more on the welfare state, want interest rates to come down and don't want to get into bed with Paddy Ashdown."

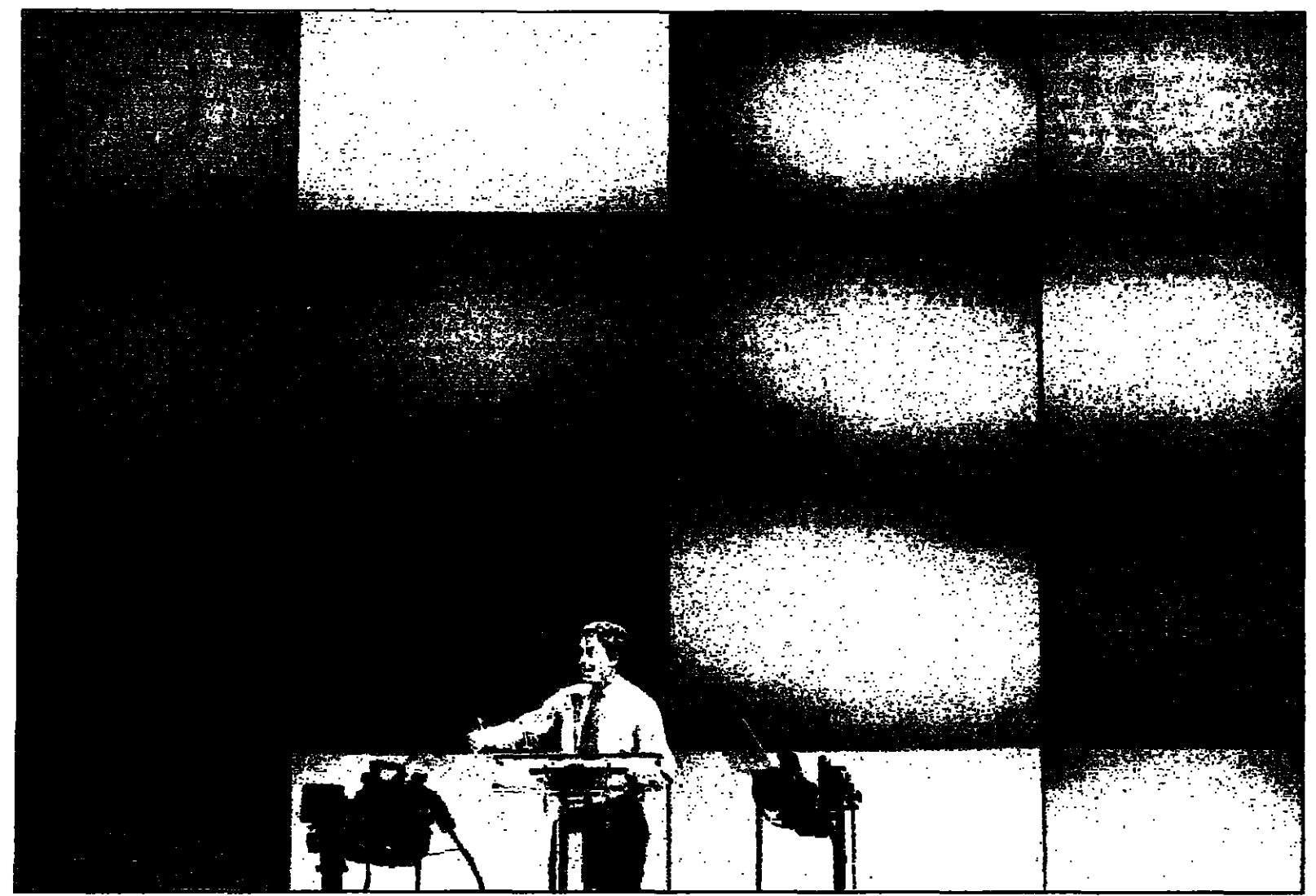
Ms Davies said she and her fellow left-wingers had won against the odds. They had been massively outspent by the Blairite candidates and had been "smeared" by senior party officials. "This will send a clear message to the Labour leadership," Ms Davies said. "Party members want an open, democratic party where dissent is valued and where voices of the grassroots are listened to with respect."

Modernisers admitted their NEC election campaign had been badly handled. They said the best-known candidates had won, and with hindsight it would have been better not to have fielded a Blairite slate. They conceded that attacks on the left-wingers, who were dubbed "parasites" by Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, had proved counter-productive.

Mr Blair faced other problems yesterday as a potentially difficult conference got under way. A Cabinet split emerged over whether Labour should renew its pledge not to increase income tax rates at the next general election.

Conference reports, pages 8 and 9

A week in Blackpool? That'll be £5m



LABOUR'S ANNUAL conference will be the most expensive Blackpool has seen, figures obtained by *The Independent* have revealed.

The policing operation will cost £3.2m. The cost of the conference will be between £1.5m and £2m, taking the total to around £5m. The Liberal Democrats paid £500,000 for two annual conferences.

The stage set is estimated to cost between £50,000 and £100,000. On top of that will come the cost of hiring exhibition space, transporting staff and equipment from London and providing stewards and technology.

Along with the 2,000 delegates, 8,000 visitors and 2,000 journalists are expected at the conference. Their every move will be watched by 200 guards from Group Four. The cost of the Lancashire police bill will be eased by a £750,000 grant from the Home Office.

Even one of the biggest commercial sponsorship operations ever seen at a party conference will not cover the whole bill, Labour sources said.

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

Sponsorship and other commercial events are expected to raise around £2m of Labour's £21m income this year, with much of that being taken during the conference week.

In the exhibition area, 230 organisations will pay between £3,000 and £8,000 for stands, bringing in more than £1m. Also, everything from the "Welcome" stand at Blackpool station to the floral displays will be sponsored, and it is believed that will bring in around £300,000.

Thomas Cook, the travel company, is paying between £20,000 and £25,000 to sponsor a £200 per head gala dinner with Tony and Cherie Blair. There have been reports that some ministers have pulled out after

the "cash for access" row earlier this year. However, the party says that all the 570 places have been taken.

There have been plenty of takers, too, for a VIP day out tomorrow which will include excellent seats for the Prime Minister's speech and places at the gala dinner in the evening.

The major lobbying companies will have a much lower profile this year. Staff will help to organise meetings, drinks or dinners with ministers for their clients, but there will be few of the gilded parties that some firms held at the Tories' conferences in previous years.

There will be no shortage of parties though, with everyone from major companies to trade unions offering free drinks. The only people not in party mood will be the Blackpool landladies. They are said to be grumpier than ever after Labour's announcement that it will not be returning to the town.



Now and then: Tony Blair's multi-coloured stage-set (top), and Neil Kinnock's modest set-up in 1992 (above)

New era for Germany as Kohl admits defeat

HELMUT KOHL, the world's longest-serving democratic leader, suffered a crushing defeat in yesterday's general elections in Germany.

His departure from the centre stage opened the way to a government led by the Social Democrat leader Gerhard Schröder.

"Kohl is gone. Kohl is gone," chanted jubilant supporters who flocked in their thousands to the Social Democrats' headquarters in Bonn. Never in Germany has a sitting chancellor lost to a leader of the opposition, and never has the swing been so vast.

According to early projections, Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats were trailing Mr Schröder's party by around five points, almost the exact reversal of their results four years ago.

"After 16 years of government, the Kohl era has come to an end today," Mr Schröder, 54, told party workers.

"The elections have brought

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

about a generational change. I stand for economic stability and development... and continuity in foreign policy," he proclaimed, adding that his priority would be the "battle against mass unemployment".

In Britain, senior Labour Party sources said last night that Mr Schröder is expected to attend Tony Blair's speech at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool tomorrow.

Mr Kohl, chancellor for the past 16 years, conceded defeat just an hour after the polls closed. "There is nothing to discuss about this defeat," he said at the headquarters of his Christian Democratic Union.

"The Social Democrats have won the elections."

With that, he also announced his resignation as chairman of his party.

Although the winners and losers were easy to identify, great uncertainty remained

about the nature of the next government. According to projections, the Social Democrats, together with the Greens, might have a majority of four seats in the new parliament, but that depended on the performance of the smaller parties.

Both the Greens and the Free Democrats - the junior party in the outgoing coalition - scraped into the Bundestag with around 6 per cent of the vote each.

The biggest question outstanding last night was whether the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the old east German Communists, would reach the 5-per-cent threshold, or qualify for a big bloc of seats by winning in at least three constituencies.

If it does, the Red-Green coalition might be robbed of its majority, and Mr Schröder would have to open coalition negotiations with the leaderless Christian Democrats.

Early projections indicated the Social Democrats would



Schröder: Pledge to fight against unemployment

win around 286 of the 656 seats in the Bundestag. The Christian Democrats and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union, were heading jointly for 244 seats.

The PDS, with whom no one is prepared to form a government in Bonn, would have around 87 seats if it cleared the hurdle, or just two if it fell short of the target.

Reports, page 11

In Israel, the kids are awroit

A BRUMMIE accent has long been considered a social disadvantage; researchers claim it portrays its speakers as "stupid" and renders them more likely to be convicted in court. Unless they're in Israel, that is.

There, the clipped sound of Received Pronunciation or the trustworthy tones of Yorkshire apparently fall a long way second to a West Midlands accent.

In Haifa, Israel's equivalent to Ibiza, bars and clubs are so entranced with the West Midlands vowel sounds that they are only recruiting those staff with a strong Brummie accent.

Eddy Alterovits, owner of the Abaco NRG night club, has advertised in Birmingham's *Sunday Mercury*. He said giving chubbers an earful of the distinctively strangled vowels will

BY GARY FINN

give his 1,800-capacity venue the edge over its competitors. Mr Alterovits said: "I love the accent and nightclub-goers can't get enough of it over here. I believe you can go a long way if you can speak the Birmingham way."

Haifa is a western style city with a terrific night life... but what we are really short of is some Birmingham girls to really get the place ticking."

Mr Alterovits is advertising for staff from the Midlands to work in the club for between two and four months over the winter months. "I have not been to the Midlands yet, but I've heard enough holiday-makers from the region to know it's the best accent by far," he said.

HOW TO SPEAK BRUMMIE

Awroit, bab - Hello. How are you?
Bostin, innit - I'm very well, thank you
She an shoppi' at Toysamwe - She's gone shopping at Toys R Us
Com we a - Come here, please
Yam gan yam - I am going home now
Tarra a bit loike - Goodbye

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[illegible]

Children as young as five suffer in picking fruit for our orange juice

By PHIL DAVISON in Sao Paulo, KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels and STEVE BOGGAN

CHILDREN as young as five are being used to pick oranges that end up as juice on British breakfast tables.

Welfare groups and unions in Brazil, the world's biggest exporter of frozen concentrated orange juice, say 150,000 children work as pickers for up to 12 hours a day in extreme heat during the six-month picking season.

They travel one hour each way by lorry, perched on orange boxes. Many have been killed when trucks have run off the road. Others are injured falling off stepladders used to reach the higher fruit. Many get scarred from crawling on their knees to pick fallen oranges.

Their health and education suffer, and their hands are often dyed green by the acidity of the fruit and the pesticides sprayed over orange groves.

Britons spend £450m on orange juice each year. Most of it comes from Brazil. The UK is the country's fourth-largest customer. The main British importers forbid the use of child labour by their suppliers, but a complicated production, export and import chain from orchard to supermarket shelf makes it impossible to prove which juice came from which orchard, so some juice sold in the UK will inevitably have come from fruit picked by children.

Last year, 14,200 tonnes of frozen concentrated juice was imported directly from Brazil. Much more is routed through the Netherlands and stored in huge "tank farms" before being shipped to Britain. The Netherlands received 263,000 tonnes from Brazil last year, a large proportion of which ended up in Britain.

British importers insist that their suppliers employ no child labour, but welfare groups believe that some Brazilian exporters turn a blind eye to their suppliers' methods.

The Brazilian government is working hard to eradicate the problem. Major producers in the Sao Paulo region have signed up to an initiative to stop using children. However, even they admit that 92 per cent of farms are small family enterprises, which often employ entire families, including young children, over which they have little or no control.

Brazilian groups opposed to child labour say the country's economic crisis means that even more children may be forced to work, to augment the



family income. They believe that at least 3.8 million children aged between five and 14 are working in Brazil, in agriculture – cutting sugar cane, picking cotton, coffee beans or oranges – and in quarries, mines, char-

coal processing sites and the footwear industry. Ernesto Giusti, of the Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT), the Brazilian equivalent of Britain's TUC, told *The Independent*: "When our rep-

resentatives try to inspect the production zones, the farm guards get in touch with each other by walkie-talkie, call the orchard and tell the children to hide or take a walk. If they're just walking in the fields, you

can't say that they're working."

A major problem is that "seals of approval" given to orange juice cans or cartons in Brazil stating that "this company is a friend of the child" are not used on exported products. "There is no way to distinguish between a company that respects the law and one that doesn't," Mr Giusti said.

The British Soft Drinks Association, which represents the UK's main importers, including Schweppes, Britvic, St Ivel, Del Monte and Gerber, says its members have ethical buying policies that demand no child labour is used. They deal only with Brazilian companies affiliated to ABECitrus, the Brazilian Association of Citrus Exporters, which has developed a code of conduct. Its members insist on contractual agreements with the farmers

from whom they buy stating that children shall not be used in picking fruit. The processing companies have introduced welfare schemes and set up schools to keep children out of the fields.

But poor families and unscrupulous gangmasters still use children. Cases have been reported of youngsters being refused identity cards because acid from the fruit has eroded their fingerprints.

"When you see them in the fields, their hands are green and it doesn't wash away," said Mr Giusti. "That's partly from the fruit, but partly from the toxic products sprayed on the oranges. Often, the fruit is sprayed even while the children are working. The skin gets badly scarred. Their fingers are almost disfigured."

"You've got to remember

that working conditions are abysmal in general, for the adults, but that the children suffer even more.

"The trouble is it's a deep-rooted tradition, born out of necessity. Most of these families are illiterate. The parents take them to work, instead of sending them to school, because school is only in the morning in Brazil and the parents don't want to leave them alone all afternoon. A father says, 'Well, my father took me to work when I was so kid, so ...' and there's also a mentality of 'it's better for them to work than to steal'."

Caio Magri, co-ordinator of Brazil's Abring Foundation for Children's Rights, which fights child labour, is less pessimistic. He says much has been done over the past few years – by the foundation, not the government. "In Sao Paulo state we

have the situation under control. But the crisis could drive more kids back to work."

He added: "We can't be absolutely certain that the situation is clean. Two months ago, two or three kids were found working in a camp to pick oranges for a big company. When it came out, the producer, Citrovita, was ostracised. They kicked out their local middlemen and said they wouldn't let it happen again."

Trade unions in Australia have this week picked up on the issue, after campaigning from their Brazilian counterparts. "There is no question that child labour is extensively used in the high season," said Max Ogden of the Australian Council of Trade.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Brussels has launched an investigation on forced labour (including child labour) throughout the Brazilian economy. The aim will be to gather enough filmed and documented evidence to pressure the EU to withdraw trade preferences from Brazil.

Christopher Burton, chairman of the Juice Importers' Association, said Brazil's producers had made vast improvements in the welfare of children in recent years. "They are spending considerable amounts of money to improve the situation," he said.

He agreed that many families took their children picking with them. "You have to look at it in the context of the country," he said. "The parents, often desperately poor, have to work to make a living. What are they supposed to do with the children? This is a country with seven million street children. It is much better that the children of these workers are with them than walking the streets."

"I have seen children out with their families, but certainly not carrying out heavy work or being treated badly."

Pedro Borio, chief of staff to Eduard Amadeo, the Brazilian Minister of Labour, said he found CUT's claim that 150,000 children were working as "hard to believe. A lot of work has been done by the government with the producers and workers' representatives and I am absolutely confident not just that it is working, but that it has worked," he said.

Sainsbury's and Tesco said they operated ethical policies that included demanding their suppliers did not use child labour. They said they would take action if any of their suppliers was found to be employing children.

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World In Action's £2m libel pay-out

GRANADA WILL today make one of the biggest libel settlements in legal history when it issues a full apology in a High Court to three police officers wrongly implicated in a *World In Action* programme of covering up a murder.

The settlement, to include £100,000 to each Metropolitan Police officer and their costs of £1.2m, comes after a six-year battle and six months after the programme's makers lost a £1m libel action brought by Marks & Spencer. Combined with its own costs, Granada is set to lose £2m in total.

A spokesman for the officers' solicitors, Russell Jones and

BY DARIUS SANAI

Walker, said the men were pleased the case had concluded in their favour, but "this will never make up for the damage caused to these entirely innocent and blameless men". One of the men, Paul Giles, has since left the force, suffering mental problems and nervous breakdowns, and is unemployed and living in subsidised housing in Northern Ireland.

A Granada spokesman refused to comment but insiders confirmed it was settling the case today. It has already broadcast an apology.

The men - Mr Giles, Peter

THE BIG WINNERS, FROM ELTON TO ARCHER

Elton John. Received £1m in out-of-court settlement with *The Sun* in 1988 after it made allegations about his sex life.

Lord Aldington, former Tory deputy chairman, won £1.5m in 1989 over claims by Count Nikolai Tolstoy that he sent Cossacks to their deaths in 1945.

Bleakley and Emlyn Welsh, sued after *World In Action* broadcast a programme in April 1992 casting doubt on the official reasons for the death in December 1990, in a London police cell, of Patrick Quinn, an

Irish labourer who had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

Quinn's cellmate, Malcolm Kennedy, was found covered in blood after the two were left alone. Kennedy was convicted

of murder. The programme cast doubt on the official line, and, using evidence from Kennedy and a Police Complaints Authority inquiry, implied Quinn may have been killed by a policeman and that

reduced to £100,000.

Sonia Sutcliffe, former wife of Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe. Won £600,000 from *Private Eye*, prompting the editor, Ian Hislop, famously to comment, "If this is justice, I'm a banana." Amount reduced to £60,000.

Jeffrey Archer, novelist and Tory peer. Won £500,000 in 1987 over allegations about his sex life in the *Daily Star*.

The Mirror paid £1,125,000 in damages and costs in 1996 after Anthony Percy, a neurosurgeon, brought an action relating to allegations following a patient's death.

The officers were present and participated in a cover-up. Kennedy's conviction was quashed in February 1993.

New evidence found soon after indicated the officers were not in Hammersmith Police

Station at the time of the murder, vindicating their stories and casting doubt on Kennedy's evidence and the documentary. He was retried and convicted of Quinn's manslaughter in April 1994, and next year the three officers issued a writ against Granada for libel.

Their solicitors said yesterday: "Viewers... were left with the impression that it was a police officer who had murdered Patrick Quinn."

A source said Mr Giles initially sought more in damages than his former colleagues, believing the programme implied he had been involved in Quinn's killing. However, his mental

state has deteriorated to the extent that he would not have been able to appear in court as a witness in his libel case.

The timing of the settlement will embarrass Granada, which last month won a contract to produce a new flagship one-hour documentary programme along the lines of America's *Sixty Minutes*. Jeff Anderson, *World In Action's* editor, will oversee the new show.

Granada is believed to have won the contract for the new programme after its fierce rival, Carlton, found itself mired in a storm about the authenticity of some of its documentaries.

Husband celebrates wife's ordination by making her bitter

YESTERDAY WAS a double victory for Sue Sheppard. Not only was she ordained as a deacon, but she was able to toast her holy orders with a pint of a special brew bearing her image.

Curate's Choice, a new premium-strength bitter that has been brewed by Guy Sheppard to celebrate his wife's ordination, is the humble clergy's alternative to more elevated ecclesiastical tipples such as Bishop's Finger and Abbot's Ale.

"The beer has been tailored to suit Sue's tastes," said Mr Sheppard, who co-owns Exe Valley Brewery in Silvertown, near Exeter, the neighbouring parish to that of his wife. "It's strong - 4.8 per cent - which suits her palate, and it's got a full-bodied taste to it."

"We used the finest Devon malt, English hops and our own spring water. I hope we've got what she wanted."

The Sheppards dreamt up the name with various clergy over a few drinks. "It seemed appropriate, really," Mr Sheppard said. "We went through all the other ecclesiastical beers -

BY CLARE GARNER



Sue Sheppard: Celebration

Bishop's Tipple, Bishop's Finger, Abbot's Ale, even deacon is already the name of a beer brewed by Gibbs Mew - so we came down to curates."

Mrs Sheppard, who was on retreat over the weekend, was

ordained yesterday at St Peter's, Tiverton, by the Bishop of Exeter as a non-stipendiary curate serving the parish of Rewe. The party afterwards was held at Tiverton Football Club.

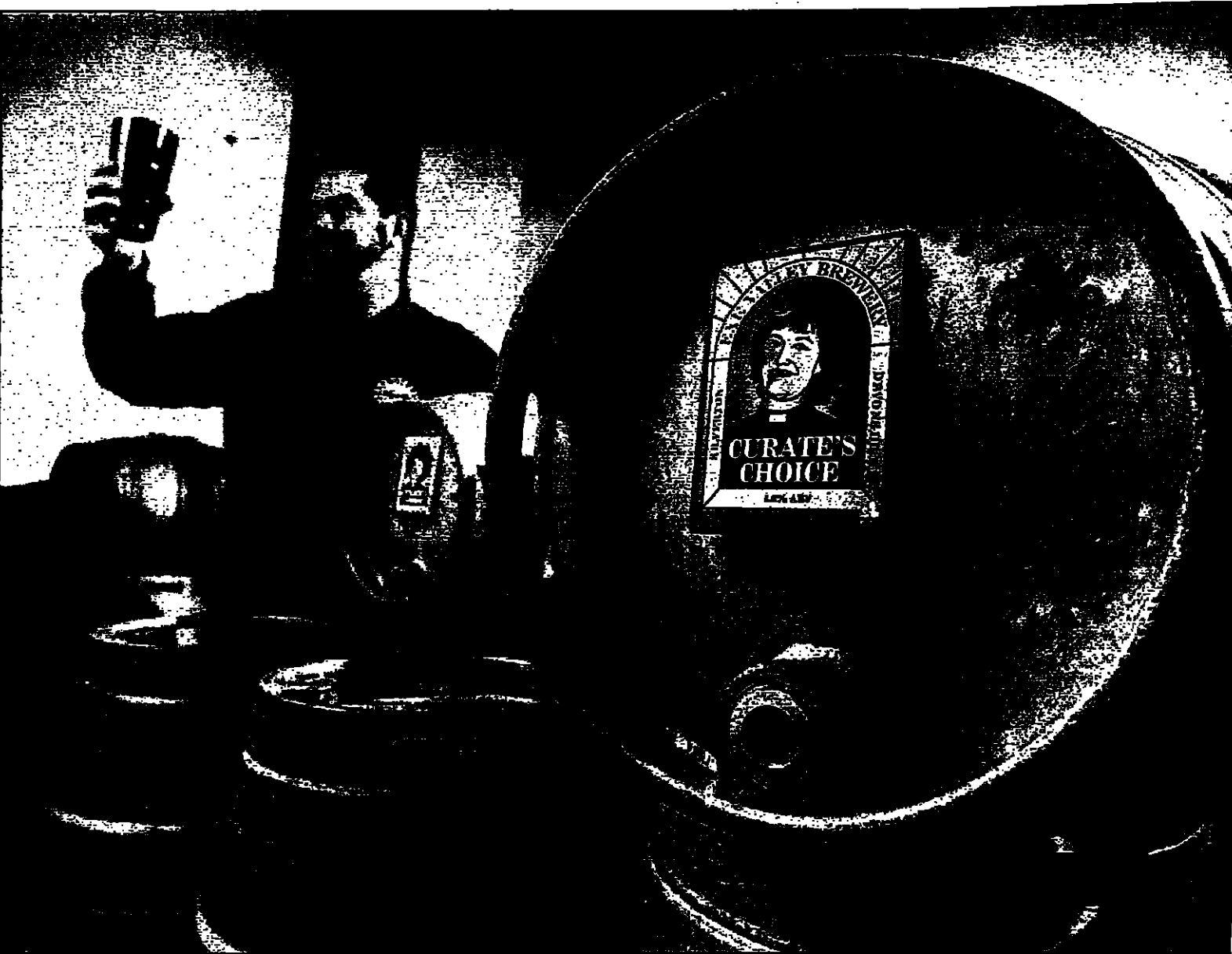
But there is a godly element to the Curate's Choice. During her three-year training for the priesthood Mrs Sheppard had to undertake various practical assignments, one of which was working as part of the chaplaincy team at the Exeter Hospice.

Exe Valley Brewery has decided to donate 5p from every 22 pint of Curate's Choice sold to the charity Hospicare.

Curate's Choice, which is launched today, will be available throughout Devon and in selected pubs across the country.

So far Mr Sheppard has brewed 1,000 gallons and hopes to continue brewing that amount every month for the next year.

However, this time next year his wife will graduate from being a deacon to a priest, so Mr Sheppard is working on an appropriate name for her accompanying beer.



Guy Sheppard with samples of Curate's Choice, the special beer that he brewed to mark the ordination of his wife.

Guy Newman

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Disability groups angry over government reforms

MORE THAN 80 per cent of disability groups are highly critical of the way the Government is carrying out reforms of the benefit system, according to a survey released today.

The Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation polled more than 100 disability organisations on the Government's performance so far on policies for disabled people such as civil rights, housing, education, benefits, health and community care.

The survey, "The Disability Audit", uncovered major criticism of the Government's actions over disability benefits, particularly their implementation of the Benefits Integrity Project (BIP) - which is examining 250,000 disabled peo-

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

ple on the higher rates of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to see if they are entitled to the benefit.

Nearly half of those questioned call BIP the worst disability policy in Labour's first 18 months in power.

Earlier this year the all-party Commons Social Security Committee said the project, set up to crack down on fraud, had been unacceptably launched, muddled in its planning, and appalling in its delivery.

Respondents to the survey described the BIP as causing "untold misery, worry and stress", and a "waste of re-

sources". One respondent said "Three areas where the Government has got it wrong? BIP, BIP, BIP".

The Government has attempted to modify the policy by excluding over-65s, more training for adjudicators and ruling that people cannot lose benefit on their own evidence alone. However, more than 40 per cent of the disability groups said the changes were poor.

But the survey found that the groups thought Labour had taken action to help more disabled people back to work.

Nearly 60 per cent thought the change to allow disabled people back on to incapacity benefit within one year if work failed was excellent and two-thirds thought removing the 16-

hour limit on voluntary work was excellent. While 48 per cent thought the New Deal was acceptable, 46 per cent were evenly divided on whether the policy was excellent or poor.

Ensuring comprehensive civil rights should be the focus of the Government's policies, with more than 45 per cent wanting the Government to prioritise this area. The majority approved of the setting up of the Disability Rights Task force and the Disability Rights Commission.

The charity will discuss the findings with the Minister for Disabled People, Margaret Hodge, at a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference tonight.

IN BRIEF

Girl found dead after tip-off

A TEENAGE GIRL has been found dead after police were tipped-off by a man hundreds of miles away. The body of Lisa Stannard, 16, was discovered at a house in Wadworth, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, after a man went into a police station in the Thames Valley police force area. The man, who is in his 40s, was arrested and taken to South Yorkshire. A neighbour said the girl's mother had lived at the house with her son but they had moved out about two weeks ago.

MCC vote on women members

THE MARYLEBONE Cricket Club will today vote again on whether to allow women members. The result will be announced at 8pm. Last February, 56 per cent voted to accept women but the constitution of the MCC requires a two-thirds majority. In August, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the MCC president, urged the club's 17,500 members, whose average age is 57, to accept the inevitable.

Crackdown on conker cheats

ORGANISERS OF the World Conker Championships are telling stewards to clamp down on gamesmanship after claims that some competitors have been intentionally missing their opponent's conker in the hope of sneaking through in a shoot-out. More than 250 people are expected to compete in Ashton, Northants, on 11 October.

Lottery's lucky seven

SEVEN PEOPLE won £1.1m each in Saturday's £2.2m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 35, 15, 40, 6, 18, 29 and the bonus was 49.

Sales chiefs leap ahead in pay race

BY PETER CUNLIFFE

SALES AND marketing executives have overtaken their colleagues in the pay race. Their salaries now average £26,610, £1,235 a year more than those of counterparts in accounts, personnel and computing, a survey found.

Over the past year, marketing staff have received inflation-beating rises averaging 6.9 per cent, said the report by The Reward Group in association with the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

"The growing importance of marketing to business success is being translated into better pay for marketers," said Steve Cuthbert, the institute's director general. "Despite recent increases, marketing salaries in the UK are still below those in Europe and the US, and therefore further upward pressure is expected."

Senior sales and marketing managers typically receive a basic annual salary of £40,000,

compared to £37,650 for those in accounts, £37,400 in computing and £35,875 in personnel. Junior managers receive £17,051, ahead of their equivalents in other departments.

The increase in status for sales and marketing employees is also reflected in the kind of company cars they drive. Steve Flather, managing director of The Reward Group, said: "Companies report having given marketers across-the-board increases at the annual pay round of around 4.5 per cent, just 1 per cent above the national average."

"But it would appear that the task of recruiting key marketing personnel is pushing salary levels up throughout the year." The report also found that the salary gap between men and women at director level has widened, with male marketing directors paid 17 per cent more.

0500 005 005

Player who felled referee 'deeply upset'

PAOLO DI CANIO, the Sheffield Wednesday footballer who pushed a referee to the ground on Saturday after being sent off, was planning yesterday to apologise and throw himself at the mercy of the Football Association, according to his agent.

The Italian, who has been involved in controversy at most of the clubs he has played for, was suspended indefinitely by his club immediately after the incident at Hillsborough. He will be charged by the FA with gross misconduct once it receives the report on the game from the referee, Paul Alcock.

The FA's disciplinary commission has wide powers, and the least Di Canio can expect is a punishment comparable to the nine months' suspension given to Eric Cantona after his kung fu attack on a fan.

Saturday's incident occurred after a brawl in which Di Canio had become involved in a scuffle with the Arsenal defender Martin Keown. On being shown the red card, the Italian shoved the official to the ground before storming off the pitch.

The player's agent, Matteo Roggi, said Di Canio was "deeply upset" and was prepared to apologise. "At the moment we are deciding what to do," he said. "We will first let the dust settle on what has happened over the next few days. Paolo has said that he doesn't wish to speak to anybody with regard to the incidents. But he admits he is deeply upset. I feel sure Paolo will decide to issue an apology shortly and we will have to see what happens after

BY CHRIS MAUME

that. We are also waiting to hear from Sheffield Wednesday."

The FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, would not be drawn on what Di Canio's punishment might be, but welcomed his club's decision to suspend him immediately. Danny Wilson, its manager, said no other course of action was open to it, though he would still like Di Canio to play for him.

"We cannot condone any type of incident like that let alone making contact with the referee," Mr Wilson said. "I do not know what was going through his mind. He just lost it for a split second."

"Obviously we have suspended him straight away as we felt we needed to show people we understood the seriousness of the incident. We will suspend him for as long as it takes."

"We have got to adhere to whatever the FA decide to do. Until they make their decision, we will take the right steps and we will see how things pan out. I still want to have him in the team. But it's up to the League as to when that will be."

Philip Don, the Premier League's referees' officer, said Mr Alcock had considered whether to continue. "He was very shocked - it is something you don't expect," Mr Don said. "When things like that happen you have to consider your place in the game but I am sure I will see him refereeing in the league in a couple of weeks."

Premiership referees are considering proposals to go

full-time but Mr Don doubted whether a professional referee could have prevented Saturday's incident.

Mr Kelly urged Mr Alcock not to give up. "I hope Paul is able to carry on as a top referee because one cannot allow incidents like this to affect the referees that are coming through," he said. "They get enough problems at the lower levels and when they finally make it to the Premiership they have a right to feel those kind of things are in the past and that professional players behave in a right and proper manner."

The volcanic Italian, Sport, page 26



Paolo Di Canio gets the red card from Paul Alcock. The player reacted by pushing him over

Professional Sport

SPORTING SUSPENSIONS

CRICKET

In 1980, the West Indian bowler Colin Croft barged into umpire Fred Goodall following a controversial decision during a Test match in New Zealand but escaped punishment after claiming the contact was accidental. Mike Gatting merely had to apologise after his finger-jabbing confrontation with Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana in 1987. In the present climate, a physical assault would almost certainly incur a lengthy ban.



Cricketer Colin Croft barged into an umpire

judge at Bradford. The suspension was later reduced.

RUGBY UNION

Any player found guilty of striking a match official could expect to be suspended *sine die*. Rugby Football Union guidelines recommend a life ban for "extreme physical assault".

BOXING

In December 1987 light-heavyweight Bobby Frankham attacked referee Richie Davies when his fight with Bobby Sim was stopped in round one. Frankham was banned for life.

RUGBY LEAGUE

David Myers of Bradford was banned for the season after "deliberately colliding" with the referee, John Connolly, in February 1995. The Salford prop, Ian Blaise, was banned *sine die* in May 1997 for hitting a touch-

BASKETBALL

No basketball player has attacked a referee on court since the National League was formed in 1972. But an incident similar to Di Canio's would bring a substantial fine and a lengthy ban.

Tea and garlic 'stops ulcers'

IT MIGHT taste a bit strange, but think of the benefits: drinking tea and eating garlic should prevent you from getting an ulcer, according to two teams of scientists.

The target of the foods is *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacterium which earlier this decade was discovered to be the cause of the majority of stomach ulcers - because it burrows into the stomach lining, causing inflammation which becomes chronic and eventually causes an ulcer. Some research has also linked it to gastric cancer.

Now a Dutch team has found that garlic, especially when taken in conjunction with chemicals that reduce stomach acidity, inhibits the growth of *H. pylori*. "The concentrations of garlic required were rather low - theoretically, the antibacterial effect seems possible by eating fresh garlic," according to Dr Edward Stobberingh of the department of medical microbiology at University Hospital, Maastricht.

At the same time, tea is also useful for fighting infection by the bug, which is found in the stomachs of about 40 per cent

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

of people. According to Dr Yoshimasa Yamamoto of Showa University school of medicine, green tea contains chemicals called catechins that "show strong antibacterial activity against *H. pylori*". "The level required for such activity ... is easily reached in the stomach after drinking a cup of green tea," he told the American Society of Microbiology's conference on antimicrobial agents at the weekend.

The application of old remedies could come in useful. Though doctors were only recently persuaded that *H. pylori* really does cause most stomach ulcers - principally by the idea drinking a glass filled with the bacterial culture - they have been quick to start using antibiotics to kill off the infection.

But that in turn has led to the rise of antibiotic-resistant strains, which means that, as Dr Stobberingh noted, "the antibacterial activities of other substances is interesting".

NatWest

News Release

28 September 1998

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5,000 superteacher posts to be created

THE GOVERNMENT moved to head off conflict over classroom pay yesterday, promising to create 5,000 superteachers paid up to £40,000 a year.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the two-year programme was a goodwill gesture ahead of proposals later this year for fundamental reform of teachers' pay and conditions.

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

But he warned teachers not to derail the Government's drive to raise standards by taking industrial action over the changes.

The National Union of Teachers, the largest teaching union, is on a collision course with ministers after threatening to strike over any attempt

to impose payment by results. At a special conference at the weekend, Doug McAvo, the union's general secretary, warned that a strike was now more likely than at any time in the past 10 years.

A Green Paper on teachers' pay, due to be published later this autumn, is expected to propose wholesale changes to pay scales, including a move away from rises linked to

experience and towards performance-related pay.

Mr Blunkett said: "I do not think it is terribly likely that teachers will be striking because they are going to be paid more and I think it will be very foolish if they damage the standards agenda and their professional standing."

"We have to sit down and talk about how to reward people with a good structure to attract

people and keep them in the profession."

He said the teaching profession had fallen behind accepted practice elsewhere in the workplace and insisted that change would come.

"We want to reform and change what has gone on for three, four, five decades," he said. "We have a real challenge to look at what people do and reward them well. We want to

reform not just the pay structure but what we expect teachers to do, and the back-up they receive, inside the classroom and outside."

Mr McAvo dismissed the offer to create more of the so-called advanced skills teachers as "a drop in the ocean".

"Five thousand out of a profession of 420,000 does not deal with the problem of teachers," he said. "Such a small number

being offered some sort of reasonable salary level does not do anything."

"It might create headlines but headlines do not deal with the problems of the teaching profession."

Teachers' leaders have expressed deep scepticism about the principle of highly paid superteachers, arguing it will split staff rooms and demoralise those excluded from the grade.

Mr Blunkett is likely to face a rough ride from union leaders when he meets them in Blackpool tomorrow.

They have been angered by the 34 per cent pay rise awarded earlier this month to Chris Woodhead, the controversial Chief Inspector of Schools.

There was also anger over government calls for pay restraint in evidence to the teachers' pay review body.

Unregulated job training scrapped

HUNDREDS OF work-related qualifications could be abolished under a crackdown on standards in training courses to be launched next year.

Faced with a burgeoning array of vocational qualifications in subjects such as self-stacking, knitting-machine mechanics and pet care, regulators say there are too many vocational qualifications, and too many question marks over quality.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), which regulates public examinations, said qualifications that failed to meet the new standards would be scrapped.

From January, every work-related qualification will have to be approved by the authority to receive public funding. Officials will also inspect exam boards and publish reports. Those that do not meet national standards could face closure.

There is a bewildering range of about 17,500 work-related qualifications on offer in Britain, covering subjects as diverse as body building, pedicure and nuclear decommissioning.

Although public exams such as A-levels and GCSEs are tightly controlled, vocational qualifications have been largely unregulated.

Dr Nick Tate, the QCA's chief executive, said the current system was "crazy", with 400 qualifications covering the arts and media alone. He said many qualifications were redundant or could simply be merged, although he insisted that specialist courses would be protected.

Of the 900 National Vocational Qualifications, for example, around a third have only ever been completed by a handful of trainees - or none at all. The list of the least popular includes NVQs in amusements, carton manufacture, spectator control and funeral service.

Dr Tate said: "We are expecting a huge reduction in the total number. The present system is difficult to understand, and it's difficult for employers to understand what

BY BEN RUSSELL

qualifications mean. We have a chaotic system which has emerged as a result of historical accident.

"We want to create a more logical and easier-to-understand system. We also want to be able to give people greater confidence that the qualifications they have worked for really do mean the things they say they mean."

Dr Tate predicted that many vocational qualifications would fail to meet the new standards. Many more would simply be abandoned.

He said the agency would take a tough line with exam boards found to be below standard. "We will tell the world what we have found," he said. "If they do not improve, they will find they are not accredited and they will go out of business."

Business leaders welcomed the move, but warned that highly specialised courses played an important role. Tony Webb, director of education and training at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "Everyone gets staggered when they hear the 17,500 figure. Many people are still confused by what is going on. There should be a map of the system that everyone can understand."

"But the marketplace has allowed these qualifications to develop, so people do value them."

Judith Norrington, curriculum director of the Association of Colleges, which represents further education institutions, said there was a danger of removing courses which were in demand by industry.

She said: "There is definitely room to get rid of the old courses that do not meet current needs, but we should not assume that things should fit into neat little boxes."

"People do not set these qualifications up for no reason. Jobs are getting more diverse and more complex, and we need to reflect that in the courses we offer."

QUALIFIED SUCCESSES

The most popular NVQs include:
business;
service-sector occupations including hairdressing, childcare, retail skills.

spectator control;
funeral service;
carton manufacture;
steel hot rolling.

The least popular NVQs include:
pest control; maintaining fire-extinguishing equipment;

Other subjects:
stringed-keyboard instrument manufacture;
electronic wiring skills;
animal management;
greenkeeping;
paper and board manufacture.



Ben James, who left his boarding school in London at 16 but couldn't join his parents in Nigeria. 'This is the only country I know' Nicola Kurtz

Straw wants to deport broker who came to Britain as a child

A BUSINESSMAN who was abandoned in Britain by his family as a 14-year-old is to be deported.

Ben James, a commodities broker, is to be sent to Nigeria, although he has no home or friends in that country and no longer speaks his original language, Yoruba.

He was brought to Britain by his father nearly 16 years ago and enrolled in a private school. Mr James, whose father feared political persecution, has had no contact with his parents since he was at school.

Tessa Jowell, the Health minister and Mr James's constituency MP, has called on Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to look favourably on his case, claiming that to deport him serves no public interest.

"I am very sympathetic to Ben James being allowed residency here," she said.

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

"Although I understand the regulations the Home Office has to apply, I think he should be given very sympathetic consideration."

But despite an announcement by the Government in July that all asylum-seekers who arrived in Britain before 1993 would be given leave to stay, Mr James seems certain to be deported.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The bottom line is that he is an over-stayer."

Mr James, who changed his name from Olawale Babatayo, was educated at Upper Tooting Independent High School, south London, but had leave to remain in Britain only for three years.

He left school at the age of 16, after his parents stopped

paying his fees but told him it was not safe to come home. He took a succession of low-paid jobs to support himself, then carved out a successful career in the financial services industry.

After five years working for Guardian Royal Exchange, he set up his own business trading in physical commodities. He earns £40,000 a year.

Mr James came to the attention of the immigration authorities only because on the advice of friends he approached them in an attempt to regularise his status. Officials issued him with a deportation notice.

"I am a high tax payer, I pay my mortgage and I have not got a criminal record, but hard work and merit don't seem to count," he said. "Would they prefer I had six kids that I could not afford to support?"

During a seven-year legal

battle to remain in Britain - "the only country I know" - he has never tried to abscond and has complied fully with requirements to report monthly to the authorities. He has spent £20,000 in legal bills, fighting deportation.

Although he believes his family had political enemies, he is not an asylum-seeker. "I cannot prove that I would be shot and I am not going to start lying about it," he said.

Mr James feels that, having spent all his adult life in Britain, he should be allowed to stay on compassionate grounds.

"If I had come here as an adult I could understand why they might think I had a plan to stay. But I had no choice in this. I was only 14 and I didn't know what was going on."

More than 60 friends, some of whom have known "Wale" since he was 14, are campaigning to persuade the Home Secretary to change his mind.

Javed Sharif, his former karate teacher, said: "In my opinion, he is a one-way person and that way is success in every part of life; he took any job necessary to pay his way. I have found him to be honest, determined but unlucky due to circumstances."

Mr James said that he is so anglicised that members of the Nigerian community in Britain do not accept him as African. "When I lived in Nigeria as a boy I spent most of the time in boarding school," he said. "I would have no way of starting a new life there."

The Home Office spokesman said that the case had been considered at ministerial level. "Ministers have said that although he has chosen to settle here he did not have any right to do so," the spokesman said.

Freed hostage tells of rape

BY MIKE BROWNELL

CAMILLA CARR, the British aid worker held hostage for 14 months in Chechnya, has told how she was repeatedly raped by one of her captors.

Ms Carr, 40, says she suffered regular sex attacks by a masked gunman while her partner, Jon James, 38, was chained to a radiator nearby.

In an interview with the *Mail on Sunday*, the couple, who travelled to the break-away republic to help set up a children's centre, said they were subjected to mock executions and beaten.

Ms Carr, who has a 12-year-old son, Ashok, said she was repeatedly raped over several months.

"The first time, I tried to resist. I said, 'No, no,' but he started hitting me around the face and neck. I thought then I had to go through with it, but it would not be me he was raping. He couldn't touch my spirit."

"I believe that when the guard got to know us as people, he realised it was wrong to rape me. It stopped and he apologised to me."

Mr James said: "I could do nothing but be there for Camilla. Of course I wanted to protect her and stop her going through this - but I couldn't. It was hell."

Ms Carr described how their guards carried out mock interrogations, and on one occasion ordered them to stand against a wall at riflepoint.

She said: "I was thinking, 'Is this it?' We were prepared for death and I was shaking like a leaf and panting."

The incident ended when one of the guards' rifles jammed as he tried to pull back the bolt.

The couple, both divorcees, who met in 1995, set off for the war-ravaged country in a £500 Lada to help set up a centre for children in the capital, Grozny.

They were captured on 2 July 1997, when gunmen burst into their room.

Ms Carr, from Bath, and Mr James, from the Forest of Dean, tried to befriend their four captors, who they believed were former soldiers trying to make money out of hostage-taking. The men never revealed their faces and wore masks whenever they were near.

They said they had forgiven the men who put them through the 443-day ordeal, during which they were held in 14 locations.

The experience had brought them closer together, they said. "We were so lucky," Ms Carr said. "We were together, so we could comfort each other physically and spiritually."

The couple were freed after the intervention of a Russian businessman.

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Mother of 3 'died in tussle with WPC'

BY MOST people's standards Robert Tressle Walk, on the St. Giles estate in Lincoln, is not a nice place to live. There are more houses and flats with metal shutters than glass in the window frames. Many gardens sprout rubbish, rubble and supermarket trolleys.

Until 12 days ago, Rosemary Fyfe, 37, a mother of three, was among those who believed the estate to be safe. But Minie, as she was known to her friends and neighbours, died after being hit in the face with a lump of wood, probably a table leg.

What makes Mrs Fyfe's death extraordinary is that the person at the centre of the investigation is a female police constable.

The officer is on sick leave while a police inquiry by another police force takes place into the circumstances of Mrs Fyfe's death. She fell to the ground after being hit once and died in front of her two youngest children, Claire, 10, and Timothy, nine.

It was the latest and most tragic event on what is considered one of two "problem" estates in Lincolnshire. Residents describe a troubled atmosphere, with groups of boys and teenagers frequently taunting the police and flouting the law.

The events leading up to the fatal moment started in a grim, predictable way. A group of young teenagers started hurling stones through the window of a house, and shouting abuse at the resident. The woman living inside responded by threatening them with a carving knife. The police were called.

The young female police constable and her male colleague were the first on the scene. A small group of adults and children gathered to watch the entertainment.

Among the crowd was a 16-year-old boy - who was well known to the police - carrying a thick piece of wood. The off-

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

icers attempted to handcuff and arrest the teenager, provoking anger among the residents.

More people came out of their homes to watch, including Mrs Fyfe, who was well known for her "loud mouth" and was considered a local "character".

She was only there by chance, having called into her home to check on two of her children before going out to play



Rosemary Fyfe: Died after being struck

bingo. Her third child, Andrew, 14, was living with her former husband.

One of Mrs Fyfe's neighbours, a 25-year-old woman who asked to remain anonymous, said: "She was shouting and swearing - that was normal. She was the other side of the garden wall about three to four feet from the woman police officer."

Then, the eyewitness said,

Mrs Fyfe was hit. "It was a good whack. I saw it. She is [sic] a big woman and she went down - she just slumped to the floor."

"The officer froze. People were spitting in her face and she didn't react."

"She had to be shoved into the police car by the other officer."

"She had spit all over her; I almost felt sorry for her."

"I kept going over to Minie, she was totally blue in the face. It was about 10 minutes after she had been hit. I said: 'I'm not being funny but she looks dead.'"

Angela Pitchford, Mrs Fyfe's sister, said Minie died in her arms. "She had some of her kids with her when it happened. They shouldn't see something like that," she said.

Several witnesses who spoke to *The Independent* confirmed the 25-year-old woman's story.

It is understood that other onlookers' statements to the inquiry, which is being carried out by Derbyshire Police and overseen by the Independent Police Complaints Authority (IPCA), have said that the blow to Mrs Fyfe's head was an accident which followed a struggle between the policewoman and the teenager holding the piece of wood.

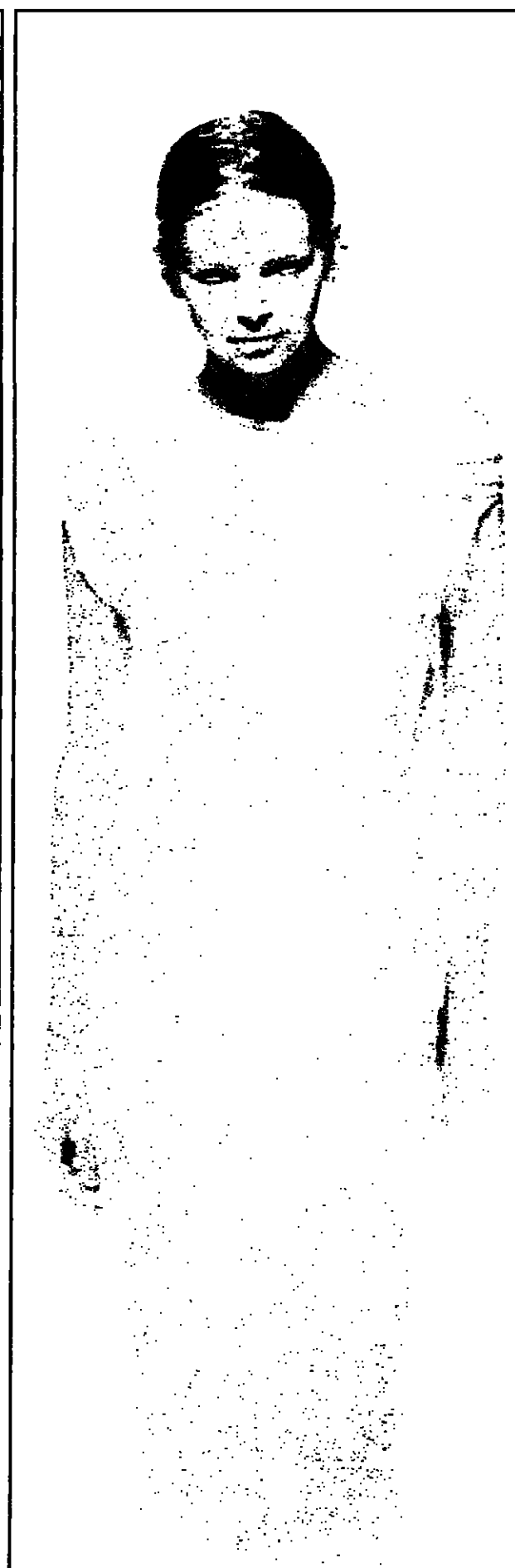
The PCA has already received 30 statements from witnesses and a further 30 from police officers.

The Home Office pathologist has yet to give a conclusive post-mortem examination result, but early tests are understood to show that the injuries to the face are consistent with being hit with a blunt object and that Mrs Fyfe is likely to have died from the effects of the blow.

Lincolnshire Police have refused to comment but a spokesman for the PCA said: "The aim is to complete the investigation within three months."



The Ghost collection modelled on the catwalk at London Fashion Week yesterday



Peter Macdormid

Beast of Barnet causes chaos

BY GARY FINN

POLICE MARKSMEN were still hunting what was thought to be a rogue big cat on the loose in suburban Hertfordshire last night after attempts to locate the animal failed.

The public were warned to secure their homes and avoid what has been dubbed "the beast of Barnet" after two sightings in the South Mims area on Friday evening.

Despite using a Metropolitan Police helicopter equipped with thermal imaging cameras and increased patrols on the ground, the authorities have so far been unable to corner the animal.

An animal, said to be "a puma-style" big cat larger than a Labrador, with a sandy coat and a long tail ringed with black at its tip, was first seen in the area in woodland eight years ago but rarely has a sighting caused as much disruption.

There were road diversions and officers patrolling streets in South Mims and Potters Bar with loud-hallers warning the public to lock doors and windows. Police also called in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Royal Veterinary College and London Zoo. A police spokeswoman said the sightings were taken seriously because this time the animal was spotted close to a residential area.

However, one big cat expert last night had reservations about the police theory that a "puma-style animal" was on the loose. Nick Lindsay, curator of Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, said there was no big cat that fitted the description given by police.

He said: "A puma is twice as big. What is interesting though is that these sightings tend to coincide with media reports or television programmes dealing with the subject."

Last week saw two such programmes on television. On Wednesday, *The X-Files* on BBC1 dealt with mysterious wild cats. And on Friday - the first time the "beast of Barnet" was spotted - the vet's drama series *Noah's Ark* dealt with the escape of a leopard from a private zoo.

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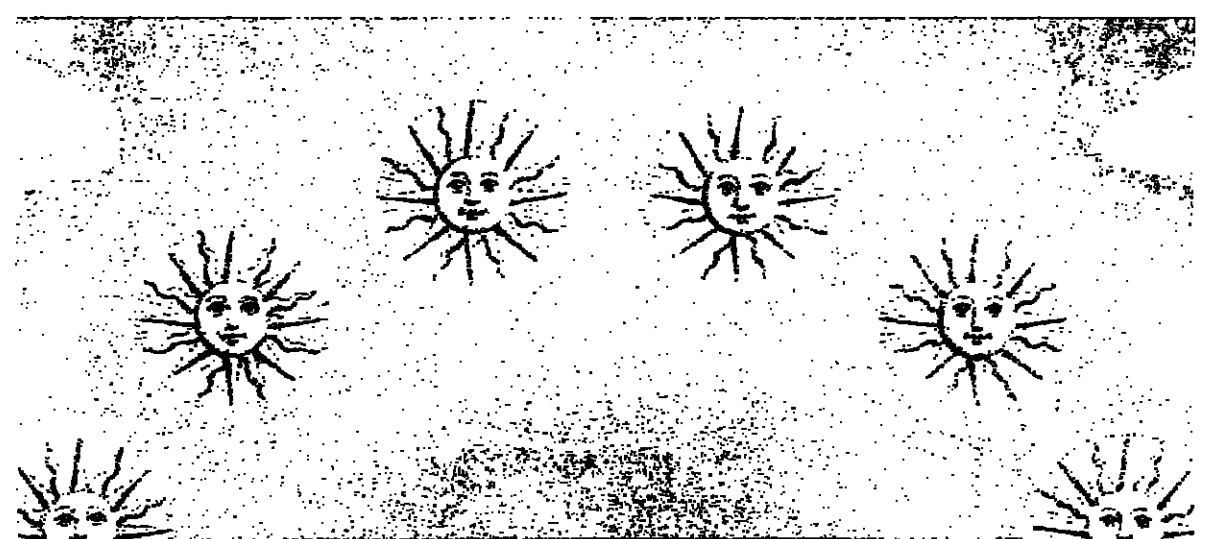
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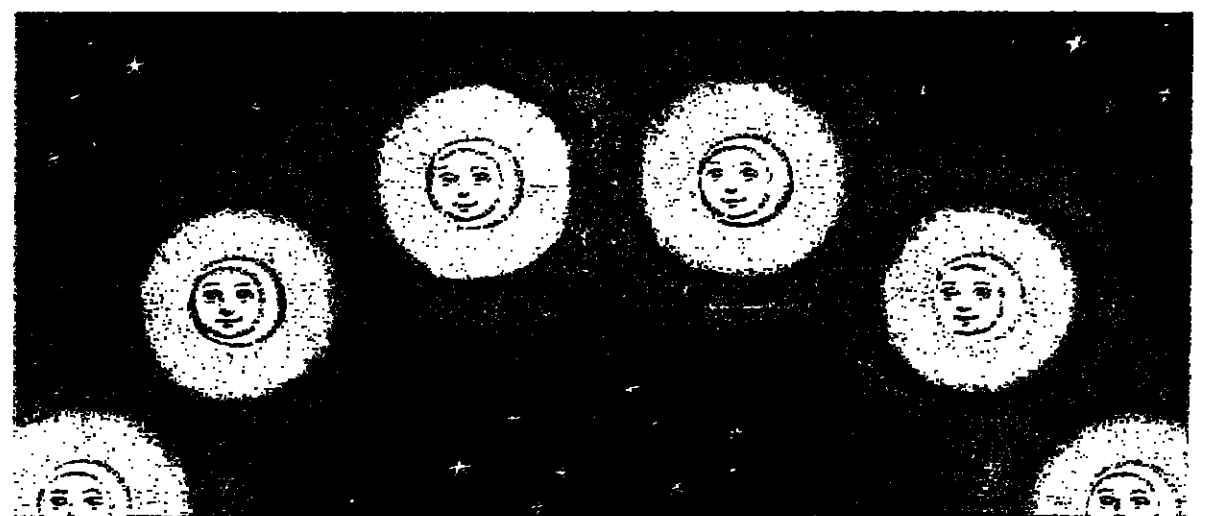
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Carping will let in Tories, says Blair

TONY BLAIR delivered a tough warning to his party yesterday when he urged party members not to return to the party divisions of the past.

The Prime Minister warned delegates during a question-and-answer session at the party's conference in Blackpool of a myth within the Labour movement that by spreading misgivings about a Labour government, more left-wing policies would be achieved.

"But that is not right. What you achieve is a right-wing Tory Government. We have been there, got the T-shirt and we are not going back again," he said.

Mr Blair also rebuffed criticism from delegates about his plans to cut income taxes as revealed in an interview with *The Independent* last week.

He said he was proud that Labour was no longer regarded as an "instinctive tax and spend party" which just "threw money" at the problem as it did during the 1960s and 1970s.

"Ministers used to get a round of applause by saying we need to spend more money... but what we are now trying to do is to make the tax system fairer and achieve visible, lasting and tangible change."

The one-hour question-and-answer session, chaired by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, was the first of its kind at a Labour conference. It was part of the pledge to build a "Partnership in Power" with an "unbroken line of accountability" between the Government, the parliamentary party, the party in the country and the country as a whole.

"The problem was that we used to have tension between the party in power and the party in the country... We want to build trust and if you, as members, disagree you will at least understand why

PARTY DIVISION
By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

we are doing what we are." The "real comradeship" was about trust, the Prime Minister said. "Solidarity is what will see us through. Have our disagreements, but recognise we want the same things for our country."

Pressed on the election of left-wing delegates to the NEC, Mr Blair made clear that "out-right opposition instead of critical support" could cost the Government the next general election. He said: "We have come a very long way as a political party. We have come a long way because we were prepared to make changes that connected us with the people."

"The choice you've got is not between the Labour Government of your dreams and the Labour Government you've got. The choice is between the Labour Government you've got and a Tory government."

Taking questions from the conference floor, Mr Blair denied that policy-making in the party was now "meaningless", insisting that through the system of policy forums more party members had ever before been consulted now.

He said: "You are not the Government's audience - you are part of the show. This is your Government. I want you not merely saying, 'Well, you've done this, you've done that and you've done the next thing, but hang on a minute, I've got in my back pocket another 10 demands and I'll have those'."

"We're getting through these things but we need your help to get through them and we need your help in building support for the Government and for the party in the country too."



A demonstrator lobbies MPs in a bid to keep open the Avesta steel plate mill in Sheffield

Brian Harris

Prescott denies 'no rise in income tax' pledge

A CABINET split over taxation opened up yesterday after John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, repudiated reports that Tony Blair had decided to raise income tax for the next general election.

The *Independent* interview with the Prime Minister at the weekend in which Tony Blair ruled out raising income tax after the next election set alight the controversy over taxation.

There were mass demonstrations outside the conference hall yesterday by health workers demanding higher pay for the low paid, and higher taxes

TAXATION
By COLIN BROWN
Political Correspondent

on the rich. Ken Livingstone, who stepped down from the national executive committee, said: "Blair cannot be serious about not increasing personal taxation."

But the Chancellor will deliver a tough message to the conference today that there can be "no quick fixes, no magic wand" to deliver higher pay and prosperity.

Gordon Brown will add: "There is no other way, not even

the comfort of any soft options, no easy way, no magic-wand solution, no quick-fix easy alternatives to our long-term policies of achieving the goals we share."

Mr Brown will urge delegates not to "throw away" economic prudence as soon as there were problems. He will hail the New Deal programme before flying to the Commonwealth ministers meeting in Ottawa, followed by the G8 in Washington at the weekend.

Embracing the image of the "Iron Chancellor", he will say: "For the economy, our most basic promise of all... was to restore as an essential objective of government, long-term high and stable levels of growth and employment."

"Our economic competence and our iron resolution, our prudence for a purpose was hard earned and hard won, and we will not sacrifice it for tomorrow's headlines or next week's easy slogans or next month's

false solutions and fashionable gimmicks."

The Chancellor also gave the strongest signal so far that the Bank of England will cut interest rates next week. "The reason mortgages had to go up is the result of interest rate decisions to deal with the inflation problem that we inherited - we have now tackled that problem," he said on Sunday.

Like Mr Prescott, Mr Brown is unhappy about having his hands tied over income tax for the next Parliament. But friends said he had lost his appetite for any big hike in personal taxation.

Mr Prescott may take more persuading. He denied on *Breakfast with Frost* that any decision had been reached by Mr Blair. "He hasn't said that at all as I understand it. He has said that we made our programme for this Parliament and the time will come, appropriately, to make our decisions for the next time."

Business as usual at Tony's side-show

A FEW days ago I received a pass to hang round my neck which appeared to come from the Somerfield supermarket chain. The words on it urged me to "see us on Stand 2".

I phoned them up to ask where Stand 2 was. Go to the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, they told me. So yesterday, wearing the pass, I arrived at Stand 2 to hear a speech by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to open what I thought was a huge trade fair celebrating the excesses of the free market. A veritable feast of global, multi-national representatives of capitalism were on display, with every privatised company showing off its wares. Dozens of stands were staffed by sharp-suited public relations executives handing out invitations to free receptions. After traipsing round for half an hour I needed a sit-down.

The Somerfield people told me if I turned the pass over it would reveal the words "Labour Party" and entitle me to attend a side-show to the trade fair which was called a party conference and was just getting underway in the ballroom.

Delegates have complained about the Somerfield stunt. The Co-op stand has offered to replace the back of any pass held by delegates who object to the Somerfield advertisement. They can replace the back with an emblem carrying a trade union slogan.

With all this sponsorship I half-expected to see a backdrop entitled "The Labour Government" - sponsored by Rupert Murdoch - but there was no sign of the media tycoon.

Mr Murdoch's favourite son, Tony Blair, was, however, in attendance and preparing to avoid answering difficult questions from the delegates.

The Prime Minister was forced to sit mute, on the platform, for over an hour, while the opening ceremony and the general mumbo-jumbo of the administrative arrangements threatened momentarily to overshadow his big event.

Various warm-up acts, including the conference chairman and party general secretary, were the prelude for Industry Minister, Ian McCartney, the Labour Party court jester, to soften up the delegates so they wouldn't cause Mr Blair too much hassle.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

A minor irritant was the announcement that four trouble-makers, including left-winger Liz Davies, had been elected to the National Executive Committee. The normally house-trained delegates momentarily forgot themselves and there was a few seconds of applause. Fortunately, they noticed that the Prime Minister looked irritated and was not clapping. So they stopped immediately. New Labour, new discipline, seems to be working.

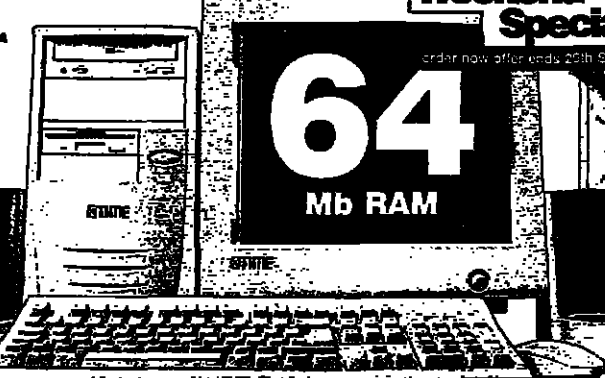
Finally, the platform party disappeared and the set was changed. A couple of chairs, a glass coffee table and bowl of red roses were brought on. Mo Mowlam, the Saint of Northern Ireland and Labour Party universal aunt, acted as Des O'Connor. Tony threw off his jacket to indicate intimacy. Questioners were chosen at random which was brave on the part of the conference fixers. On the other hand, anyone fool enough to ask a tricky number would simply be purged.

The Prime Minister was asked more or less the sort of questions posed at a local constituency party meeting and found no difficulty in coping. Examples such as redundancies and "What are you going to do for the ward I represent in the West Midlands?" were typical and he responded in generalities, flagging up as many national policy achievements as he could.

It was an easy Sunday, afternoon ride for Mr Blair. His informal manner and easy listening disc jockey style meant that the experiment in limited party democracy was a success. These delegates are still celebrating last year's victory and still cannot quite believe they are really in charge of Britain. They will applaud anything from Tony and it is unlikely he will have much trouble from the delegates this week.

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Child benefit tax warning

VETERAN LABOUR politician Baroness Castle warned Tony Blair yesterday that he faced mass opposition if he pushed through plans to tax child benefit.

The 87-year-old former Cabinet minister spoke out after it emerged that the Prime Minister may announce in his speech to conference tomorrow that one million better-off families should pay the new tax. The move to target higher rate tax payers could come in as early as the next Budget in Spring.

More than seven million families claim the benefit, but ministers have long believed that many middle-class parents simply do not need it. Taxing it could raise up to £2bn a year without sacrificing the principle of universality, ministers believe.

However, Baroness Castle said: "Why pick on child benefit? The principle behind a good welfare state is that the benefits are universal."

Although many middle class parents claimed that they were willing to give up child benefit,

those same people were the ones who eagerly grabbed the Tory tax cuts, she added.

Baroness Castle said that she wasn't optimistic that the new party conference arrangements would allow delegates to oppose the plans.

John Prescott, the deputy Prime Minister, was interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday and asked if the tax would be brought in. He said: "I don't know. That's Tony Blair's speech. This will have to wait until Tony makes his speech."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the public services union, told the programme: "If we're talking about clawing back money on child benefit, the principle of income tax is where the money should be clawed back. We are a very rich nation." Ken Livingstone, the MP for Brent East, also suggested the rich should pay higher income tax.

Cook pulls out of left's rally

ROBIN COOK and John Edmonds have pulled out of tomorrow's Tribune rally, where they were due to share the platform with the Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams.

Mr Edmonds, leader of the GMB general workers' union, did so because Tribune failed to invite David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister.

He said there was a need to maintain the bipartisan approach that underpinned the Good Friday Agreement. "Our union has always drawn support from both sides of the divide in Northern Ireland. Our members are both Protestant and Catholic. I would be happy to share a platform with both Gerry Adams and David Trimble. I am not prepared to exclude one section of the community at this crucial time in the peace process. Now more than ever we need to maintain unity."

Mr Edmonds said he asked the Tribune group to invite Mr Trimble, who was visiting the Labour conference in Blackpool, but it declined to do so.

"They simply said they did

not have the room for another speaker." He told the group he was prepared to forgo some of his allotted time to allow Mr Trimble to speak but that did not prove acceptable. He was told Tribune rallies were not intended to centre on one theme and it was meant to afford a platform to speakers on a wide variety of issues.

Mr Cook's friends said the Foreign Secretary had withdrawn because he will be hosting the international reception at the main conference hotel but it would also avoid potential embarrassment over Mr Adams. "Robin has not pulled out because of Gerry Adams, but there was always the potential for embarrassment. The arrangement was that Robin would speak at the start and Adams at the end," said one of his friends.

"Robin is not doing this because of Gerry Adams but he is not too sad about it."

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday:
Morning: Speech by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, followed by a debate on the economy.
Afternoon: Speech by Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson, followed by debate on issues including trade, union recognition and the National Minimum Wage.
Evening: Speech by Culture Secretary Chris Smith, followed by debate on topics such as admission charges for museums and galleries.

Tuesday:
Morning: Speech by Social Security Secretary Alastair Darling on welfare reform.
Afternoon: Speech by Environment, Transport and Regions Secretary John Prescott on transport, housing and local government.
Evening: Speech by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, followed by a debate on the modernisation and reform of the NHS.

Wednesday:
Morning: Speech by TUC President John Edmonds.
Afternoon: Speech by Deputy Leader and Environment, Transport and Regions Secretary John Prescott on transport, housing and local government.
Evening: Speech by Health Secretary Frank Dobson, followed by a debate on the modernisation and reform of the NHS.

Thursday:
Morning: Speeches by Welsh Secretary Ron Davies and Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar on the challenges of devolution and the forthcoming elections to the Welsh assembly and the Scottish Parliament.
Afternoon: Speech by Home Secretary Jack Straw, followed by speech by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook.
Evening: Speech by leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, Pauline Green.

High profiles won it for Grassroots

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE LEFT-WING Grassroots Alliance swept to power on Labour's ruling National Executive Committee yesterday after one of the hardest-fought internal election campaigns of recent years.

Outspent by the leadership-backed Members First group, the Alliance nevertheless proved to be better organised and staffed in individual branches across the country.

One year after members snubbed Peter Mandelson in favour of Ken Livingstone for a seat on the NEC, the loose grouping of left-leaning candidates showed, yet again, that committed activists can still wield considerable influence among the rank and file.

Tribune editor Mark Seddon, who became the Alliance's leading spokesman, highlighted the effectiveness of the campaign by topping the poll with more than 75,000 votes.

The battle for the six constituency seats on the NEC was marked by some bitter exchanges, with outgoing party general secretary Tom Sawyer accused of bias in favour of Members First after he publicly denounced the group's tactics.

Former leader Neil Kinnock raised the level of vitriol further when he dubbed the Alliance a group of "Trotskyites, sectarians and other selfish parasites".

Members First had a war chest of £100,000, including £30,000 from the engineers' union, AEEU. It was also alleged to have hired a private marketing firm to telephone members at a rate of £1 a call.

Tim Pendry, co-ordinator of the Alliance, said that it now formally ceased to exist and its



Liz Davies (left) is delighted as she is elected to Labour's National Executive Committee

Brian Harris

members would speak as individuals, not as group members.

"They were successful because they represent members who feel that at best they have been taken for granted in recent years, and at worst, used as a sales force for the leadership," he said.

However, Millbank officials suggested that the real reason

for the resounding victory for the Alliance was not its politics but that its candidates were better-known with the party.

Most of its slate, particularly Seddon and Davies, were well-established figures with media profiles, whereas Members First hopefuls were largely "anonymous".

The popularity of Michael Cashman, former EastEnders star, proved that

name-recognition played a big part, they claimed.

Left-wingers won four of a possible six seats in the local activists' section of elections to Labour's ruling National Executive Committee.

The left-wing Grassroots Alliance won 342,000 votes, taking four seats, compared to the pro-leadership Members First group's 311,000.

Tribune editor Mark Seddon, standing for the Grassroots Alliance, topped the members' poll with 75,584 votes.

Actor Michael Cashman - standing for the pro-leadership Members First group - came second with 70,256 votes.

Trade unionist Diana Jenda, from the same group, was third with 62,509.

London barrister Liz Davies,

barred by the NEC from standing as a parliamentary candidate, came fourth with 61,970 votes.

Scottish Executive member Cathy Jamieson took fifth place with 61,707. Veteran party official Pete Willsman was sixth with 58,108 votes.

The 35 per cent turnout of 133,597 votes cast, was described by the party as normal.

Unions to press for pledge on rights

UNIONS WILL today publicly challenge the Government to pledge that it has no plans to water down controversial proposals on employee rights.

They suspect that Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who will be speaking at the Labour Party conference, has responded positively to persistent lobbying from employers who are keen to weaken the impact of the intended legislation.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, one of the party's biggest affiliates, said yesterday there were "ominous signs" that the minister would impose a limit on compensation for claims involving unfair dismissal. Under present regulations there is a cap of £12,000, but the "Fairness at Work" White Paper proposes that there should be no restriction.

Mr Morris said it was "significant" that the minister had not denied claims that he was preparing to change the policy. If he failed to give those assurances, Mr Morris said his union would feel a sense of "betrayal".

The T&G leader said the union movement had already made considerable compromises in negotiations ahead of the publication of the document earlier this year.

Mr Morris said he wanted Mr Mandelson to act as an "impartial referee." In reference to the Confederation of British Industry, the union leader said: "The game is over, one team should not be allowed back on the field to score a few more goals. The signs are ominous. We are concerned about the reports and I will be seeking assurances that this is a done deal."

Speaking after a meeting of his union delegation at Black-

FAIRNESS AT WORK
BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

pool he said that many of his colleagues had expressed "dismay" over indications that the Government might be seeking to reopen the question.

The CBI has also asked the Government to think again about its proposal to allow automatic recognition where a union had more than half of a workforce in membership. In addition, employers have expressed concern about a plan that would allow union representation in cases of "grievance" even where the union was not recognised.

Roger Lyons, leader of the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union, pointed out that the Public Interest Act on the protection of "whistle-blowers" in the workplace did not allow for a limit on compensation where workers were dismissed.

He claimed the Department of Trade and Industry had intervened in the drafting process to ensure there was no restriction on payments because that was the principle which was employed in the "Fairness at Work" White Paper.

Mr Mandelson is to meet Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England, to discuss the growing demands for an interest rates cut by both business and trade union leaders.

Mr Mandelson said last night he wanted the Bank to be aware of the views of manufacturing industry and those who worked in it. He added that he wanted to encourage a two-way dialogue between the Bank and industry. But he denied that he would put any pressure on Mr George. "I strongly support independence for the Bank of England and I strongly support the way it has conducted monetary policy."

FOUR LEFT-WINGERS WHO WON SEATS ON THE NEC

Liz Davies

SEEN BY Millbank as an identikit left-wing troublemaker, Davies, 34, is one Islington barrister unlikely to be invited round to No 10 for a cosy chat.

Was Islington councillor who achieved notoriety when the NEC itself refused to endorse her candidacy for the general election in Leeds North East.

Former member of board of Labour Left Briefing magazine, which once described Tony Blair as "Class traitor of the month". Backs progressive taxation to shift resources from the rich to the poor and firmly against dismantling the welfare state. Says "Labour has nothing to fear from dissent."

Cathy Jamieson

DESCRIBED AS the "last left-wing member" of the Scottish Labour Party executive, the 41-year-old delegate for Ayr is highly regarded as a professional operator even by her political enemies.

Allies point to the fact that she is on the list of candidates for the next year's elections to the Scottish Parliament as proof of the huge difference between the party north of the border and Millbank.

She is a leading children's campaigner in Scotland, organiser of the advocacy group Who Cares? Scotland, and also a senior panel member on Inquiry into child abuse in Scottish children's homes.

Mark Seddon

EDITOR OF left-wing Tribune magazine, an affable yet shrewd strategist and a long-way from the stereotypical image of a far-left socialist. Masterminded the campaign by the Grassroots Alliance, widely acknowledged as better organised and staffed than the Members First campaign. Seen by many as the "acceptable face" of the Alliance, his reputation as a canny media manipulator was borne out by the high profile he achieved during the ballot. Upset party apparatchiks when he published photos of Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson on the front of Tribune with the caption "Politics with a perpetual sneer - beware of the bogies."

Pete Willsman

WIDELY RECOGNISED within party circles for his connection with the Bennite Campaign for Labour Party Democracy in the early 1980s, but a virtual unknown outside. Trusted as a safe pair of hands for his detailed knowledge of party procedure and rules, the Union research officer campaigned on a platform of supporting rank and file members right not to be sidelined by the leadership. An unashamed left-winger, committed to "socialist/co-operative principles", including "redistribution of wealth" committed to gender, race and class issues. Said in his manifesto that he "won't speak to divisive media".

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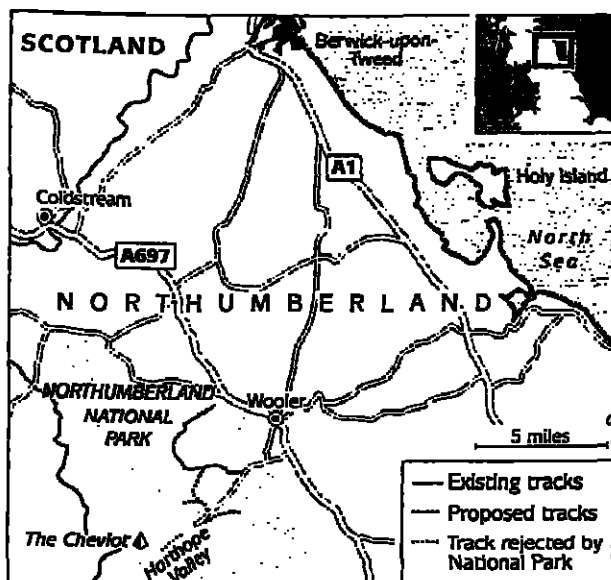
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Moorland scarred by tracks for shooting

ONE OF Britain's richest, and most secretive, men is building his own network of vehicle tracks over one of Britain's most tranquil and unspoilt national parks, Northumberland.

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Persimmon, Britain's third-

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

largest housebuilder, is constructing the tracks to link his growing number of grouse moors in the Cheviot hills.

The development has concerned some Northumberland

National Park officials, who fear it may impair the remoteness and unspoilt peace which are the park's special qualities.

Mr Davidson's plan is to construct three tracks leading up the sides of one of the prettiest valleys, Harthope.

He has been constructing

the tracks, with mechanical diggers, to link up the various moors and make vehicle access easier.

They are often referred to locally as roads, but are described as tracks on planning documents, in line with Mr Davidson's view. "With respect,

I'm the guy who's building them, and they are hill tracks," he said.

However they are described, all are within the boundary of the Northumberland National Park and officers are concerned that they do not accord with the park's purpose.

"This is a very difficult issue," said Terry Carroll, the deputy national park officer, and the official in charge of planning. "Here is unspoilt moorland with bags of the national park's special qualities, remoteness, lack of development, tranquillity, seemingly a wilderness - and you introduce a network of them, which are more or less conspicuous."

"People who go there for unspoilt solitude are certainly going to have their view impaired."

Mr Davidson's estate has already been brought to the attention of park officials over 14 kilometres of tracks which have already been built. Two were constructed without proper notification, and another was built bigger than the specification suggested.

Mr Davidson is planning three more tracks, rising out of the Harthope Valley, celebrated by writers including Daniel Defoe and Sir Walter Scott.

Park officials consider the Harthope Valley tracks, totalling eight kilometres, to be for grouse moor management, and therefore asked for full planning applications, which farm and forestry tracks do not need.

Mr Davidson has received planning permission for all three from the National Park Authority, although Mr Carroll and his officials had suggested that one of the applications should be refused. But he has failed with his application for a fourth track, which would have penetrated the wild country under The Cheviot, the 2,600ft peak of the range.

Mr Davidson, 57, is not only the largest private landowner in the park, with more than

25,000 acres - most of the Cheviots now belong to him - but he is also one of the richest men in Britain. His personal fortune was estimated this year at £60m, but some sources put it at more than £100m. He is blue-blooded into the bargain, being the nephew of the last Duke of Norfolk, at whose side he assisted as a page boy in the Coronation in 1953.

Despite his wealth, power and connections, Mr Davidson has succeeded in keeping an extremely low profile. He is unknown as a public figure outside the world of finance. Newspaper references to him are limited mainly to the booming Persimmon's annual results. There is not a word about him in *Who's Who*.

His reticence has kept from public view a remarkable social phenomenon: at a time when many large land holdings are being broken up and sold off piecemeal, Mr Davidson has been building up a great country estate, to rival that of his near neighbour, the Duke of

Northumberland.

For the past decade he has been steadily buying moorland farms in the Cheviots, at a cost of millions of pounds, and reducing the numbers of sheep to bring back the heather. This provides much better conditions for grouse, country sports and shooting, which are Mr Davidson's passions.

Mr Davidson said he saw nothing in the tracks to which anyone could take exception. "It's a very large area of land, and it's also a fairly large-scale working sheep farm," he said.

"We need to get around the place and we have very bad weather in winter."

"It's only what's required for the various enterprises on the estate, sheep farming, forestry and so on."

"I own all the land in question and I've been a countryman all my life. I certainly don't feel any of the work we're planning to do to put in these tracks is going to impair the environment at all."



Duncan Davidson: secretive landowner *Pick of York*

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New antibiotics to fight 'superbugs'

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

IN illnesses caused by bacteria that have become resistant to existing treatments, such as penicillin and vancomycin.

More than 5,000 deaths are thought to be caused in the UK each year by MRSA, a strain of bacterium that is resistant to a wide range of antibiotics.

Linezolid is the first of a class of antibiotics known as oxazolidinones. "They represent a really unique class of antibiotics. There has been no unique antibacterial on the market in 20 years," said Dr Moellering.

Existing antibiotics kill bacteria by dissolving or preventing the building of the cell wall, or by stopping the bacteria from making or using essential proteins, or by interfering with their genetic material to prevent reproduction.

By contrast, linezolid sabotages two essential cell factors, the ribosomes, which assemble proteins, and RNA, the "messenger" for DNA, used to make the proteins essential for cell life.

More important to the long-term effectiveness of linezolid is that it affects processes stemming from several of the

bacterial genes. That makes it less likely that resistance can evolve, because all the genes would have to change at once to produce a bacterium able to survive the antibiotic's effects.

Dr Moellering said Pharmacia did manage, with difficulty, to create bacteria in the laboratory that resisted linezolid, but none was seen in human patients.

"All of the data so far suggests that this is a drug for which it will be difficult for bacteria to become resistant, but we thought that was true for vancomycin, too," Dr Moellering said.

Vancomycin was seen as the last line of resistance against bacteria such as enterococci, which have developed resistant strains that defy all other known drugs. But hospitals in Japan and the United States have discovered vancomycin-resistant enterococci in patients with suppressed immune systems who have been on antibiotics for weeks.

The key to preventing linezolid and its kin falling by the wayside will be to prevent overuse, and to ensure that people complete courses so that all the bacteria are killed off, said Dr Moellering.

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Nato troops
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09/20/98

German elections: Former 'Marxist' firebrand plans radical shake-up that will take his country into new millennium



Gerhard Schröder gives a victory wave to his supporters at the SPD's headquarters in Bonn last night

Chancellery gates open for Schröder

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

GERHARD SCHRÖDER, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, emerged last night as the man most likely to lead Germany into the next millennium.

Mr Schröder has experienced many political metamorphoses in his life, has been divorced three times, and changes his mind often. In so many ways, he is everything Helmut Kohl was not.

He was born into poverty in October 1944. His father died on the Eastern Front three days after his son's birth. His mother remarried, but her new husband suffered from tuberculosis, and she had to tend for the five children alone. She cleaned the barracks of the British occupation forces in the northern town of Lemgo for a living.

At the age of 12, young Gerhard had to work in the fields to supplement the family income, and was forced to leave school early to help keep the bailiffs away by working as an apprentice salesman at a china shop. Always ambitious and determined, he studied at evening classes, promising his mother that "one day I'll take you away from all this in a Mercedes".

After finishing high school at his own expense, he obtained a

law degree at Göttingen university and went on to become a lawyer. These were heady days. Mr Schröder professed himself to be a "Marxist" as he plunged into the maelstrom of left-wing politics. He rose to become President of the Social Democrat Party's youth wing, the "Young Socialists".

But dogma did not interest him as much as power. Balancing three warring factions, Mr Schröder outflanked them all, and re-positioned the Young Socialist movement closer to the mainstream than it had been.

By the time he reached Bonn as an MP in 1980, and stood outside the chancellery, shaking the gate and shouting "I want to get in there", he had already lost much of his leftist ardour. And when, 10 years later, he was elected Prime Minister of his native Lower Saxony, the former firebrand was already presenting himself as a paragon of pragmatism.

Like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, Mr Schröder was prepared to recognise the importance of keeping business sweet long before his party

colleagues, who are still inclined to declaim about "social justice" in one of the richest countries of the world. "The economy isn't everything, but without the economy there is nothing," he would frequently say, during this campaign.

But Mr Schröder's administrative record is patchy. After eight years at the helm, Lower Saxony is more heavily in debt than most other Länder, yet it has a level of unemployment higher than the average in the West. In spite of this, he keeps being re-elected, and by increasing majorities.

The voters seem to like the way he oils the wheels of business, lobbies for investment and intervenes occasionally with public funds to save an enterprise from going under, or from being bought by a foreign firm. At the same time, he cuts deals with the unions and tries to keep the wage bills low.

That, at least, was the Gerhard Schröder everybody knew: the "bosses' comrade", who scarcely fitted into the traditional mainstream of the Social Democrat Party.

The views that outraged the left for so long have not been in evidence on the stumps in the

past few months. But it is clear from the choice of people he has picked for the shadow government that his administration plans to shake up Germany, and particularly its welfare system. Mr Schröder regards the Dutch economic model as one Germany should copy.

In the Netherlands, wages were cut with the agreement of the unions, laws were changed to encourage part-time work, and the unemployed were - in effect - chased off the dole. If this is Mr Schröder's remedy, Germany is in for a shock.

In foreign affairs, the new government is certain to confirm Mr Kohl's European agenda, even on the question of the euro, which Mr Schröder had once dismissed as "monopoly money". He has signalled a shift away from France in the leadership of the European Union, and the replacement of the Franco-German axis with a "triangle" also including Britain.

Governing Germany will be more complicated than running Lower Saxony. It remains to be seen how he can deal with constraints imposed by the opposition. He may end up having to balance politicians from across the range of German politics.

Villagers join the clamour for reform

THE VILLAGE of Ettringen, a community of 2,800 atop an extinct volcano in the Eifel, has seen a few changes over the years, but not enough. As the locals piled out of the school that served as the election centre for a day, the word "change" hung on every lip.

Even the head of the district Christian Democrat party thought it was a good thing. Gerd Heilmann tried to be enthusiastic about canvassing for another four years for Helmut Kohl. He thought the Chancel-

BY IMRE KARACS
in Ettringen

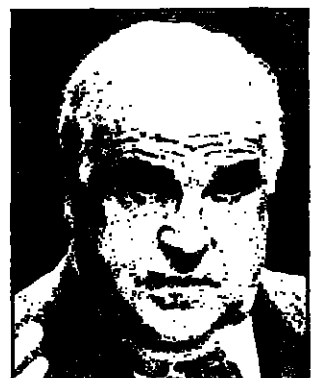
led by high unemployment, extortionate taxes, and lack of funding for education. He felt the country had grown sclerotic in the past 16 years.

Mr Hitzel voted for Gerhard Schröder's party, expecting that the Social Democrats will be forced to form a "grand coalition" with the Christian Democrats. "To get all the reforms that have been piling up through the legislature, you need majorities in both the Bundestag and the Bundesrat [the upper chamber of parliament]. It seems only a grand coalition can secure that."

Many Social Democrat sympathisers disagree. "The grand coalition is the worst I can imagine," says Andrea Loch, a housewife. She and her husband voted for Mr Schröder's party, because "we need a government that does something for the workers, for the small people".

Udo Bäsch, a stone-worker, voted Social Democrat because he is disgusted by high unemployment, and felt the tax system was "unjust". About Mr Schröder, he has yet to be convinced. "I prefer Lafontaine," he says. Oskar Lafontaine is on the left wing of the party, more in tune, Mr Bäsch thinks, with the aspirations of working people. "But I accept that Schröder is worth an extra 4 or 5 per cent in votes."

Winfried Spitzley, an architect, voted for the Greens. "It is important to have a party in government that is concerned about the environment," he explains. He thought a Red-Green alliance would work splendidly. "Many people are afraid that the Greens would be bad for industry, but I don't believe that."



Kohl: Sixteen years in power

lor had done a good job in the past 16 years. The important issues in these elections, he said, were law and order and tax reform. And unemployment, he added after some thought. "Change will come," he promised, "but it will come naturally."

Most villagers, it seemed, could not wait for nature to take its course. "Germany needs to become a modern country," said Christoph Hitzel, a scientist who commutes to Bonn, 40 minutes up the Autobahn.

Mr Hitzel, aged 35, rattles off a long list of problems that need to be urgently fixed, head-

Nato troops arrest war crimes suspect

NATO TROOPS in Bosnia seized another UN-indicted war crimes suspect yesterday. Stevan Todorovic is accused on 15 counts which include murder, rape and torture during the war between Serbs, Croats and Muslims from 1992-5.

The 41-year-old former police chief of Bosanski Samac, on the border with Croatia, was arrested without incident, apparently by American troops.

The sudden display of Western resolve against war crime suspects, most of whom are Serbs, may have been timed to coincide with the start of a one-day tour of Bosnia by the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen.

His visit starts days after the election of a hardline Serb nationalist to the presidency of the Serb-ruled half of Bosnia. Western diplomats fear that Nikola Poplasen will halt the fit-

BY MARCUS TANNER

ful co-operation with the West undertaken by his predecessor, Biljana Plavsic. Mr Poplasen is an ally of the ultra-nationalist Radical party in Serbia. This is led by Vojislav Seselj, who is linked to many of the atrocities in Bosnia and Croatia from 1992 to 1995.

Javier Solana, secretary-general of Nato, said the latest arrest was "yet another warning to all those indicted for war crimes who are still at large that they will not escape justice".

Todorovic was due to be transported to The Hague last night, where he could appear in the dock as early as today. He is the ninth indicted suspect to be picked up in Bosnia by Nato peace-keeping forces, and the 26th suspect in custody out of 58 suspects indicted.

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US warns Arafat on independent state

MADEIRAINE ALBRIGHT, the US Secretary of State, held intensive back-to-back meetings with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Yasser Arafat, in New York over the weekend, amid fears that the Palestinian leader may be planning to declare a Palestinian state.

With both leaders expected to hold critical talks with President Bill Clinton at the White House today, Ms Albright was

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

seeking in particular to forestall a threat by Mr Arafat to declare an independent Palestine in May next year, regardless of the state of negotiations with Israel.

Protected by scores of security commandos brandishing sub-machine guns before startled tourists, Mr Arafat took to the avenues of Manhattan yesterday to address a private

conference on Middle East peace at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Park Avenue and then visited St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral on Fifth Avenue.

American officials said Ms Albright had warned the Palestinian leader to desist from reiterating his threat to declare an independent state when he gives a speech to the United Nations General Assembly this morning. "Our view is that it would be a mistake and not help

ful for chairman Arafat to make a unilateral statement," her spokesman, James Rubin, said.

If the atmosphere surrounding the deadlocked Middle East peace process can be improved, Washington is hopeful that progress can be made this week on an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank.

The US goal is an agreement by Mr Netanyahu to withdraw from an additional 13 per cent

of the West Bank on top of the 27 per cent that Israel has already agreed to leave in earlier stages of the process.

This represents a new approach by the US. Washington had previously hoped for a comprehensive agreement on the outstanding issues in the peace process, which is meant to culminate in the creation of the Palestinian state by next May. US officials this weekend played down the prospect of

such a global accord being reached in the near future.

Mr Arafat appeared to be taking a softer approach in his Waldorf address yesterday, suggesting that the transition to an independent state should still be carried out within the framework of an international agreement. "Let me give a clear 'yes' to the American initiative, which does not even meet our minimalist requirement," he said. Making no direct reference to any unilateral declaration

of independence, he added: "I want and hope that the declaration of the existence of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil will be carried out within the framework of an international agreement." He said the May 1999 deadline "cannot come and go like any other day".

As part of any agreement to surrender the 13 per cent, Israel is demanding that 3 per cent of that land should be set aside by

Mr Arafat as a "nature reserve". Mr Netanyahu also wants fresh guarantees from Mr Arafat that he will take steps to thwart extremist activities on the territory under his control.

On this, too, Mr Arafat also appeared conciliatory yesterday. "I want to reiterate our policy of zero tolerance to terror and violence," he said. "I will continue fighting without hesitancy and without linkage to the peace process."



A dancer at a dress rehearsal for 'Turandot' in Peking's Forbidden City in August. She was one of 600 Chinese in the cast of 1,000

Reuters

Financial curtains for Puccini in Peking

IT WAS acclaimed an artistic triumph, but the financial performance of "Turandot" in the Forbidden City has proved a flop, a victim of Asia's economic crisis and China's ability to get the better of many foreign businessmen.

The final cost of staging Puccini's opera earlier this month was \$14m (£8.5m). It was directed by Zhang Yimou, China's best-known film director, and conducted by Zubin Mehta, in the former imperial Ancestral Hall. But for Michael Ecker, executive producer, the best financial outcome he can envisage for his private company, Opera on Original Site (OOS), will be break-even.

"Moneywise, operas are not

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

really big moneymakers. But we worked on Turandot for nearly five years. From that point of view, it was a disappointing project," he said.

Lower-than-expected sponsorship, flat ticket demand in recession-hit Asia, and too many unsold \$150-\$1,250 tickets all contributed.

"Japan especially was very disappointing, and South-East Asia too," Mr Ecker said.

China, on the other hand, will have done reasonably well from the opera, set in the Forbidden City, which tells of a Chinese princess who has the suitors unable to answer her riddles

beheaded. Opera on Original Site had to pay 4 million yuan (\$600,000) to use the venue.

"But there were a lot of other costs," Mr Ecker said. "For example, we paid them a few million yuan for the electricity and the cables. So the Ministry of Culture, the Cultural Relics Bureau, everybody, got some money from this project. And approximately \$80m-\$100m went into the Chinese tourism industry, because a lot of the audience made trips through China."

The company also had to provide the government with "much more than" the previously reported figure of 200 free tickets to each performance. At performances at-

tended by The Independent, it was difficult to find a Chinese person who had bought a ticket.

The government did not contribute any sponsorship. "I was astonished that the Chinese charged us so enormous a fee for rent. Because in Egypt and all other countries where you go, they even give you support money for promoting."

"We did not get one single dollar from the Chinese tourist authority for promoting this project. In Egypt, you would get millions of dollars," said Mr Ecker, who headed marketing and promotion for the 1987 performance of *Aida* in Egypt.

The final accounting picture will not emerge for two months, when Opera on Original Site

and its Chinese co-organiser, the China Performing Arts Agency (CPAA), complete accounts, which will be audited by Coopers & Lybrand. But the broad financial picture looks something like this:

■ The Italian Culture Ministry put up \$1.5m for costumes and flying the orchestra and chorus of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino to Peking.

■ The China Performing Arts Agency covered 10 per cent of the budget in return for 45 per cent of the gross ticket sales.

■ That left OOS seemingly responsible for \$11m of the budget, which it needed to cover by selling worldwide media rights, sponsorship and donations, and its 55 per cent of ticket sales.

Apart from television rights in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, which belong to the company and the China Performing Arts Agency, all other television, compact disc, digital video disc and video rights were pre-sold to CLT UFA International, which is owned by Bertelsmann, the German media conglomerate. One source said that the fee was "not far away from" \$2.5m.

So the company had a big hole to fill. Sponsorship and donations were lower than budgeted, though corporate deals helped to dispose of some of the more expensive tickets. OOS/CPAA's mainland and Hong Kong rights have still not been sold.

Indian army set for stint in Lebanon

IN ALL these past 20 years, at least 18 foreign armies have turned up in Lebanon. Palestinians and Israelis, Syrians and Iraqis and Libyans, American marines and French paratroopers, Iranian Revolutionary Guards and British hussars and Italian bersaglieri, Finnish reservists, Irish infantrymen, Norwegian ski-troops, Nigerian and Dutch battalions and Ghanaians and Fijians and Nepalese.

But now - surely the very last word in exotic military arrivals - the army of the Raj is about to enter Lebanon.

Even more colourful is the location of the incoming UN Indian Army battalion - inside Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon. And even more painful is the reaction of the Lebanese government, which was hoping for French troops and still wants to know if the Indian Army soldiers will be Muslim, Hindu, Christian or a mixture of all three.

They will be stationed in an area which includes Christian militiamen, Druze and Sunni Muslim villagers as well as Israelis. Welcome, in other words, to the Lebanese cocktail.

The current eight-nation UN "interim" force in southern Lebanon has been in theatre for 20 years, ever since the first Israeli invasion, and the Norwegians, tough and well-trained Nato troops, have been based outside the town of Marjayoun from the start. After Israel's second invasion, in 1982, they found themselves inside the occupation zone, on guard against not only the Israelis but Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia and infiltrating Hizbollah guerrillas.

But after two decades, Norway has had enough. Despite appeals to stay, the last troops will be out by 7 December.

But the first nation which volunteered to fill the gap provoked many a missing heart-

BEIRUT

beat within the UN: Ukraine. Mindful that Kiev's UN soldiers ran a thriving black market in Bosnia, their generosity was politely turned down. The UN in Lebanon has no wish to find its petrol, food, armoured vehicles, tyres and guns being sold off to Israelis, Lebanese and Syrians.

Then came India. Even in the débacle of Somalia, the Indians were among the most professional UN troops, and UN officials asked for their most professional officers.

But the Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, was hoping that his old personal friend, Jacques Chirac, might save the day.

Not so. France will be more than happy to send its own troops as part of a multinational force to oversee a final Israeli withdrawal, but not to sit in the Lebanese quagmire. The French battalion headquarters in Beirut - they were not then a UN force - was suicide-bombed by some of the Hizbollah's chums in 1983, and French troops would prefer to arrive back in the former "Mandate Français", in all their glory, when the shooting is over. Besides, the French already have a 246-man logistics unit with the UN in southern Lebanon.

Mr Hariri held out to the end. Several Lebanese ministers privately expressed fears that an Indian force might contain the sort of folk who like to burn mosques - or who might be rather too Muslim for Lebanon's liking. In the end it is said that the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, had to telephone the Lebanese Prime Minister and break the news: it was the Indians or nothing. An advance party arrives next week to "assess the situation on the ground". That should take them a good 20 years.

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CABLE & WIRELESS

The Fresco seafood restaurant: it's a riot every Saturday

CITY LIFE
JERUSALEM

EVERY SATURDAY afternoon, spot on five o'clock, through the summer and into autumn, a squad of mounted police clip-clop past my house on the Street of the Prophets. Half an hour later, equally promptly, dozens of ultra-Orthodox Jews in their Sabbath best gather outside the Fresco fish restaurant, 100 yards up the road, and riot until sunset.

The men, bearded patriarchs in long, black, tailored silk coats and cartwheel fur hats, swelter piously in the hottest summer on record up to 34C. Their wives, wigged for modesty, sweat in floral prints with long sleeves and hems below the knee.

Small boys in black knickerbockers and velvet skullcaps twirl their sidecurls and shrill "Shabbos Shabbos" (Yiddish for Sabbath) whenever a car approaches. Their elders take up the raucous refrain like a chorus from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Sometimes they surge forward, jeering and leering. One week I watched an Arab family, visiting a nearby maternity hospital, turn tail and flee down the hill to the sanctuary of the Old City.

The police, with batons drawn, force the rioters back - and are cursed as "Nazis" for their pains. Things turn doubly ugly when secular Israelis drive up and down with their radios blaring heavy metal in counter-demonstration.

The religious Jews are protesting that the Fresco, a

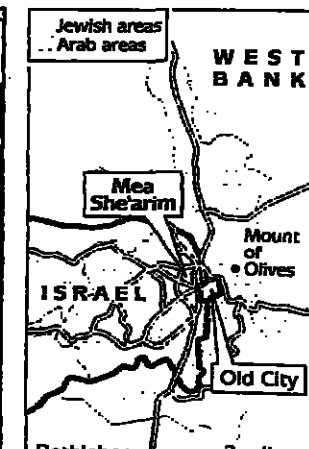


The Fresco is facing the wrath of Jewish zealots

cool oasis in a restored 19th-century mansion, serves Mediterranean seafood forbidden by kosher law, on the day of rest, too. The restaurant, truth be told, is tucked between Prophets Street and Jaffa Road, the main thoroughfare of Jewish West Jerusalem. It interferes with no one's Sabbath.

The rioters' real aim is to close Prophets Street, which runs near, but not through, the ultra-Orthodox ghetto of Mea She'arim, on Saturdays. In a holy city where logic-chopping has been raised to an art form, such distinctions dictate how the rest of us live.

Last year they forced the town council to close another



The Fresco is facing the wrath of Jewish zealots

main road, Bar-Ilan, on Saturdays. Bar-Ilan has been engulfed over the past decade by the synagogues and seminaries of the expanding ultra-Orthodox suburb. They are less likely to succeed in Prophets Street, where the only ecclesiastical buildings are an Anglican School, a French convent and the Swedish Protestant Theological Institute.

The zealots campaign with total conviction and no scruples. Yeshiva students harass the Fresco throughout the week. On Fridays, they call 20 or 30 times, always from public phone boxes so that they can't be traced. They book tables, then don't turn up.

"They threaten to burn us down," says Udi Meiri, the 26-year-old chef and part-owner. "They threaten to smash up the place. They yell that cancer will consume us, that we'll be struck by lightning."

When Nurit Rosenberg, a 25-year-old waitress, answers the phone she is cursed as a whore. Occasionally, the students come to the door and spit at her. They call her a *shiksa*, a non-Jewish slut. "It's frustrating," she says. "It's insulting, humiliating."

The Fresco is one of dozens of Jerusalem restaurants open on the Sabbath. In the Russian Compound, just as close to Mea She'arim, discos rock till dawn.

According to a survey published last spring by the Committee to Uphold the Sabbath in Jerusalem, the number of businesses open on Friday night and Saturday has doubled in the past three years. They logged 43 restaurants, 13 coffee shops, 26 pubs, nine nightclubs, three cinemas, eight kiosks, six fast-food and takeaway shops, and 10 taxi ranks. A local paper counted another 30 eateries that the committee missed. You have to book if you want to be sure of a table.

Jerusalem is at once a holy city and a capital city, the home of countless yeshivas, but also of the Hebrew University and the Bezalel Academy of Art. Jewish tradition speaks of two Jerusalems, the heavenly Jerusalem and the earthly Jerusalem.

Despite the aggro, they find ways to coexist. Yet the zealots, about 30 per cent of Jerusalem's 400,000 Jews, are silencing away at the resistance. Demography is on their side. More than 50 per cent of this year's primary school intake was ultra-Orthodox.

Fresco's chef, Udi Meiri, is pessimistic. "They take one street after another. A lot of my friends are moving to Tel Aviv. We tried to negotiate with a more respectable delegation that came to see us. But they wanted us either to go kosher or close. The gap is so wide that I don't think it can be bridged."

ERIC SILVER

دور السينما

Georges heads for New Orleans

INTERSTATE ROUTE 10, the only main road out of the city of New Orleans, was clogged with traffic yesterday as fearful residents sought to flee the city before the onslaught of Hurricane Georges.

More than a million people have been told to leave their homes and head for safer areas in the states of Alabama and Louisiana.

The hurricane, which has already wreaked havoc across much of the Caribbean and the Florida Keys, was gathering

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Louisiana with the arrival of the outer squalls of the hurricane.

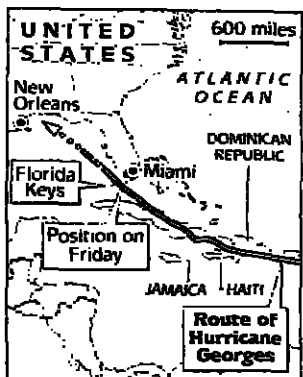
The atmosphere in the city was tense, though there was no sign of panic, as people bought stocks of bottled water and other staples, boarded up their homes and took to the road.

On Saturday night, those determined to sit it out continued to party in the city's French Quarter, but many of the most famous clubs and restaurants were closing down and boarding up.

The voluntary or compulsory evacuation orders covers a wide swathe of the US Gulf coast from Louisiana in the west to the Florida Panhandle in the east.

But forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said that the likely focus of the storm, barring any last minute change of direction, was New Orleans. Hotels in towns and cities far enough inland to be regarded as safe from the storm warned they already had no more room for tardy evacuees.

Although New Orleans itself is protected by more than 100 levees, flooding was seen as the greatest danger in this low-lying area that is only just recovering from the ravages of a tropical storm two weeks ago. The damage caused then prompted President Bill Clinton to declare the worst affected districts a disaster area, allowing them to qualify for federal aid. But New Orleans itself was not affected severely enough to qualify.



Vehicles jam interstate route 10 out of New Orleans yesterday as Hurricane Georges heads for land

New Orleans' situation - with the shoreline on two sides and lagoons on the third - leaves it vulnerable to storm surges of the 17ft-plus magnitude which it is feared Hurricane Georges may bring. A force 2 hurricane when it hit the Caribbean and southern Florida at the end of last week, Georges was described yesterday as a "strong category 2" which could fast develop into a category 3 - with winds of more than 120mph - before making landfall.

Initially, Georges had been forecast to reach land along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts. The beach resorts there were cleared on Saturday and the casinos at Biloxi were closed. The shoreline, usually bustling with boats and people,

was eerily deserted, even as the sun continued to shine.

It was late on Saturday that the hurricane made a slight move to the west. It was this move that made New Orleans the most likely target. Conceding that they were ill-prepared for a hurricane, the local authorities ordered mandatory evacuation of about a million people.

The mayor, Marc Morial, declared a state of emergency, a prerequisite for putting in place a curfew and for calling in federal assistance. The most recent forecast was that the centre of the hurricane could reach the Mississippi delta by yesterday evening, although its progress towards land was slowing even as its windspeeds were picking up.

Europe urges Britain to rejoin ERM

BRITAIN IS under pressure to join a new version of the exchange rate mechanism, from which the pound was ejected six years ago. The move threatens to cause a rift between the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and his European counterparts.

A 12-point plan, tabled at the weekend by the French finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, at an informal meeting of finance ministers in Vienna, urged Britain to join "as soon as possible".

Two other European finance ministers, Gerrit Zalm of the Netherlands and Charlie McCreevy of Ireland, made the same appeal, one warning that a "jaundiced view" would be taken if Britain decided to stay outside "ERM2" until the single currency was a success, and then applied to join.

Of the 15 European Union states only Britain and Sweden intend to stay out of ERM2, which is launched with the euro on 1 January. Denmark and Greece signed up on Saturday. European finance ministers see the new exchange rate mechanism as a way of ex-

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Vienna

tending the euro-zone, which has been a bulwark against the kind of turbulence sweeping South-East Asia and Russia.

British hostility to re-entry is rooted in the pound's ignominious withdrawal from the mechanism, under which parities were fixed within bands.

Failure to join ERM2 could jeopardise Britain's prospects of entering the single currency if it wants to do so. Under the Maastricht treaty, membership of ERM for two years is a precondition of entry. Britain's entry could be vetoed by any member state if it has not been part of the ERM.

At the minimum, other European countries would want to see a two-year period of exchange rate stability for the pound.

That raises the prospect of Britain having to shadow the euro, within a margin of around 15 per cent, if Mr Brown wants to keep open the option of membership of EMU early in the next parliament.

Hardline Slovakian PM loses election

SLOVAKIA'S controversial Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar, has lost his majority in the weekend general election, opening the way for a four-party opposition bloc to take power.

Turnout was huge for the poll, which could decide whether Slovakia rejoins the race for integration into the European Union or Nato, or slips further into isolation.

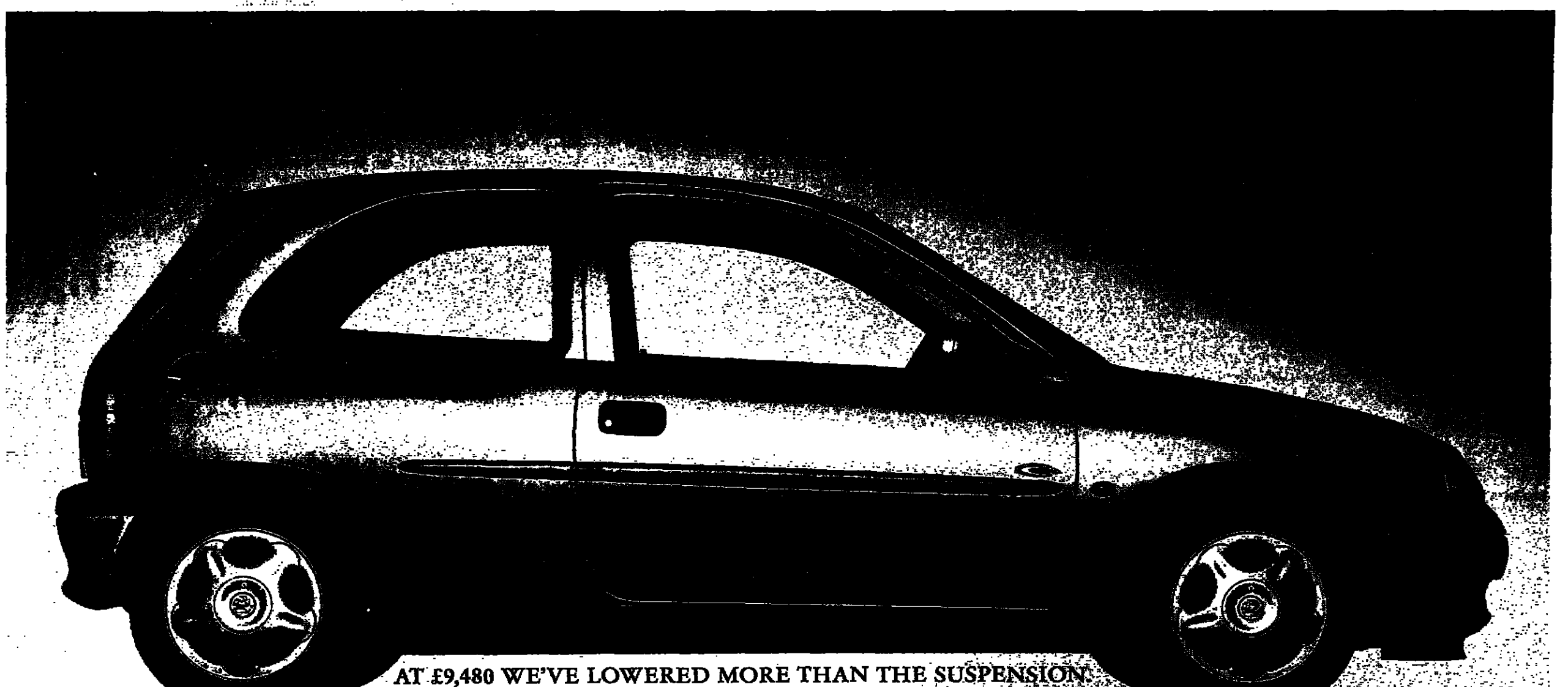
The opposition bloc looked set to take 93 of the 150 seats in parliament, while Mr Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, with his allies in the far-right Slovak National Party, will have 57 seats.

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

However, the opposition bloc is united by little more than hostility to Mr Meciar. The four parties will find it difficult to find a common platform.

Mr Meciar's party claimed victory as the single largest party in the Bratislava parliament. Vice-chairman Sergej Kozlik said the party had "won the election and will behave like a winner. There is no reason for Prime Minister Meciar to quit".

Mr Meciar, a bullish nationalist, has been criticised for his authoritarian style and poor record on human rights.



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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

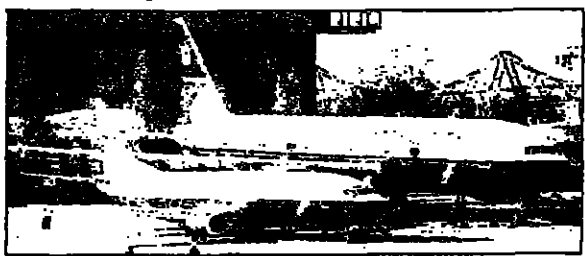
BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Digital TV subscription launched

ONDIGITAL, the digital television broadcaster owned by Granada and Carlton, will today unveil a flexible subscription package that will allow customers to choose the channels they want rather than receive a pre-determined list. The basic service will cost £7.99 a month for six channels. The choice will include channels such as Sky One, Sky Gold and the BBC programming but not premium subscription channels such as Sky Sports.

Rolls-Royce wins £580m BA deal



ROLLS-ROYCE HAS beaten off American rivals General Electric and Pratt & Whitney to win a £580m contract to supply up to 64 engines for the long-haul Boeing 777 aircraft British Airways ordered last month. In a deal that will help to safeguard more than 25,000 jobs in the UK, Rolls will provide Trent 355 engines for the 16 twin-engined Boeing 777s that BA ordered in August.

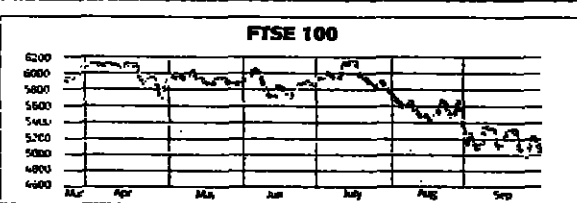
Pru restructure cuts 300 jobs

PRUDENTIAL IS planning to close 34 branches and cut 300 jobs in its sales management and branch support staff next year as it attempts to restructure the way its 3,500-strong salesforce is paid. The Pru, which has been criticised by City regulators for the mis-selling of financial products by its sales force, is proposing to move away from a commission-based pay system by increasing its sales staffs' basic salaries and making additional earnings "dependent on the quality of advice and business activity".

Management buyouts in trouble

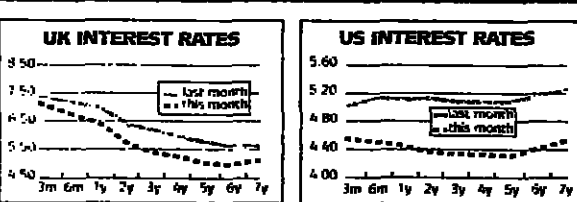
BACKERS OF recent management buyouts could soon find themselves unable to cash in their investments, according to research sponsored by Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance and Barclays Private Equity. The Centre for Management Buy Out Research estimates the private equity market has surged to £11.4bn so far this year - exceeding the record £10.7bn for the whole of 1997 - while total funds raised in the new issue market has averaged only £7bn a year over the past seven years. This raises doubts over the potential for successful flotations of many management buyouts in the future.

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	1W% ch	1M% ch	3M% ch	1Y% ch	YTD
FTSE 100	4501.00	5.40	0.11	6183.7	4382.8	3.891
FTSE 250	4218.90	-112.90	-2.54	3970.9	4428.3	5.105
FTSE 350	3412.20	-8.70	-0.36	2989.1	3141.8	4.099
FTSE All Share	3343.85	-10.98	-0.47	2886.52	3106.59	4.103
FTSE SmallCap	2011.50	-49.50	-2.40	2793.8	2032.5	4.173
FTSE Fledgling	1134.90	-20.70	-1.79	1517.1	1140.2	4.516
FTSE AIM	852.40	-20.30	-2.33	1146.9	855.7	1.365
FTSE EBLK 100	833.94					
Dow Jones	8028.77	133.11	1.69	9367.84	6971.32	1.86
Nikkei	13233.84	-229.28	-1.85	18439.75	13211.13	1.123
Hang Seng	7201.61	-256.65	-3.43	15242.65	6544.70	5.272
Dax	4561.58	-37.00	-0.81	6217.83	3487.24	3.473

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.35	6.09	6.94	-0.59	5.03	-1.60	4.65	-1.92	
US	5.31	-0.41	5.06	-0.91	4.56		5.12		
Japan	0.44	-0.14	0.48	-0.15	0.84	-1.29	1.36	-1.43	
Germany	3.48	0.18	3.57	-0.15	3.97	-1.56	4.94	-1.23	

CURRENCIES

Index	1W% ch	1M% ch	3M% ch	1Y% ch	YTD
Dollar	1.7022	+1.78%	1.6277		
D-Mark	2.9452	-0.05%	2.8793		
Yen	231.13	+98.09	197.43		
£ index	103.40	+0.40	101.10		
5 index	109.20	-0.20	105.10		

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	1W% ch	1M% ch	3M% ch	1Y% ch	YTD
Brent Oil (\$)	14.51	0.39	15.05		
Gold (\$)	294.15	2.70	327.13		
Silver (\$)	5.19	0.19	4.75		

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.7689	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.84
Austria (schillings)	19.25	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0885
Belgium (francs)	56.61	New Zealand (\$)	3.2745
Canada (\$)	2.4927	Norway (krone)	12.19
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8086	Portugal (escudos)	279.83
Denmark (krone)	10.49	Saudi Arabia (riyals)	6.2006
Finland (markka)	8.4344	Singapore (\$)	2.7445
France (francs)	9.1907	Spain (pesetas)	232.40
Germany (marks)	2.7469	South Africa (rand)	9.5624
Greece (drachmas)	476.35	Sweden (krone)	13.00
Hong Kong (\$)	12.72	Switzerland (francs)	2.2668
Ireland (pounds)	1.0944	Thailand (bahts)	60.92
India (rupees)	66.40	Turkey (liras)	451.997
Israel (shekels)	6.0433	USA (\$)	1.6539
Italy (lira)	2.723		
Japan (yen)	223.03		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2016		
Malta (lira)	0.6142		

Supermarkets make formal OFT complaint

SOME OF Britain's leading supermarkets have made formal complaints to the Office of Fair Trading about last week's report into retailers' buying power.

BY NIGEL COPE

The board of Safeway has sent a letter to John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, complaining that the report was "mismanaged". It is understood that Terry Leahy, chief executive of Tesco, has telephoned Mr Bridgeman to express similar concerns. It is also understood that some of the supermarkets have been contacted by the OFT, which has expressed "regret" at the way the report was handled.

The core of Safeway's complaint is that last week's study was presented as an official OFT report, whereas it was only a research paper. Safeway says the report, which was mainly a theoretical study un-

dertaken by three academics, should have been released before the official investigation was launched, not after it.

Separately, Safeway had complained about the conduct of Paul Dobson, one of the report's authors. It is unhappy that Mr Dobson made comments about the report ahead of its publication and that he later made remarks which were far more critical of the supermarkets than any statement included in his report.

The major supermarkets are feeling bruised by what they see as a concerted campaign to attack them. The OFT launched its official investigation into supermarket profit margins at the end of July. Then came the research paper on buying power last Thursday followed a day later by a Department of the Environment report on how out-of-town supermarkets are threatening British towns.

"He was exceeding his brief," Safeway says. "We do not recall any behaviour like this before, either from the OFT or by the people commissioned by them."

It is understood that Safeway later received a fax from the OFT saying that the opinions expressed in the report "are not necessarily those of the OFT, or those of the authors".



Beer barrels at Morrells brewery, Oxford, yesterday. Michael Cannon, who developed pub chains such as The Magic Pub Company and Devenish, is expected to pay about £50m for Morrells' Lion Brew brewery and 132-pub estate.

John Lawrence

Markets turmoil: City fears a bloodbath of savage cuts and shrinking bonuses

Barclays to cut 200 jobs as fear grows

BY NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

BARCLAYS IS expected to announce up to 200 job losses at Barclays Capital, its investment banking division, in the next few weeks as the bank reins back the division's activities.

The move is likely to be followed by more savage cuts at other leading banks as experts predict a sharp downturn in the City with shrinking bonuses and dwindling trading activity as emerging markets grind to a standstill and the fall-out from the hedge fund crisis claims more victims. "It's going to be a bloodbath out there," one banking expert said yesterday.

Barclays is currently preparing its budgets for next year and each division of Barclays Capital has been told to re-assess its projections for head count, cost base and revenues. Departments with exposure to emerging markets will be scaled back although Barclays says the cuts will not be draconian as it is already a "lean organisation".

Barclays Capital employs 4,500 staff, of whom 3,000 are in London. However, it now seems certain that these numbers will be reduced after Barclays announced a £250m provision for losses in Russia and a further \$250m participation in the res-

cue of Long-Term Capital Management, the stricken US hedge fund whose losses have threatened a meltdown in global financial markets.

"We are looking at our businesses to check we have the right number of people for the changed circumstances," a spokesman said. "Every bank is doing the same thing."

Barclays' action follows a string of similar cut-backs at other banks as the downturn gathers pace. Last week both Banco Santander and West Deutsche Landesbank announced 300 redundancies at their investment banking operations. There are rumours that Merrill Lynch is about to announce cuts as a result of the Russian crisis and over 300 City jobs have gone at Nikko Securities as a result of the merger of its investment banking activities with those of Salomon Smith Barney of the US. Daiwa Europe has also announced job losses.

Barclays dismissed suggestions that Barclays Capital may be put up for sale. The division includes the bank's treasury and syndicated loans divisions, which makes disposal unlikely. Barclays says its structured finance department is performing well and that the bank needs a capital markets division to meet corporate clients' needs.

Barclays denies suggestions that Barclays Capital will receive no fresh funds for up to a year. It is understood the division has more than enough capital but fewer opportunities to invest as emerging markets continue their downward spiral. However, capital usage will be reduced as money is channelled into more profitable areas. Instead of emerging markets Barclays will concentrate on European markets as they prepare for the introduction of the euro as well as investment in other Group of Seven Countries.

Barclays' action comes as new figures emerged over the weekend which suggest that Long Term Capital Management built a total market exposure of about \$200bn. Banking regulators around the world are planning tough new rules to control lending to hedge funds. The Financial Services Authority has expressed concern that many banks had lent to LTCM without taking sufficient collateral.

Goldman to pull float on partners' re-think

THE PARTNERS of Goldman Sachs are today expected to postpone plans to float the blue-chip investment bank this November because of the recent unprecedented stock market turmoil.

The bank's co-chairmen, Jon Corzine and Henry Paulson, favour proceeding with a listing in the spring. However, some of the 190 partners feel that, given the shaky market conditions and the possibility of the United States heading into depression next year, the group should remain a partnership.

The meeting is set to start at 5.00pm New York time. Overseas partners, including the 37 in London, will participate through a world-wide video conference link.

Doubts over Goldman's flotation have been mounting since its chief financial officer, Jon Thain, warned of a sharp downturn in the fourth quarter last week while unveiling third-quarter results. One Goldman Sachs insider said: "For him to say what he said, things must be really bad."

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

Although the figures were not as bad as some of its competitors, they showed a 19 per cent fall in earnings to \$754m against the same period last year. In addition, the bank said that market conditions would "negatively impact" on fourth quarter results.

Since the financial crisis that was triggered in August by the Russian default, shares in Goldman Sachs' main Wall Street rivals have fallen by as much as 50 per cent, prompting fears of massive job losses.

When the bank decided to seek a stock market flotation earlier in the year, it was assumed it would fetch \$30bn. Now, the value could be half that.

Although only 10 per cent of the bank's stock was expected to be sold to outsiders, the fact that some \$10bn has been wiped off its value would have posed serious problems for the bank's structure.

The so-called limited partners, who are mainly retired se-

nior staff, managed to agree a formula which guaranteed the value of their stakes. The executive committee now believes these are no longer sustainable on the current valuation.

For the current timetable to be met, Goldman would have had to press ahead quickly. The prospectus setting out the price range and the number of shares to be sold - as well as details about partners' salaries, shareholdings and the bank's financial situation - was due out within the next few weeks.

Given the circumstances, many of the partners would prefer those details not to be released. No final decision has been made on how the postponement should be announced. Some favour an internal announcement to staff, which would not be fully subject to American listing requirements and would give the senior management more flexibility.

However, it was looking increasingly likely yesterday that a public announcement on the outcome of the meeting would be made tomorrow.

Siemens fails to find rescuer

SIEMENS will begin running down its £1bn semi-conductor plant on Tyneside this week, with the loss of 1,100 jobs, after failing to find a rescuer for the factory.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

A six-week search for a buyer, headed by a taskforce set up by Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has drawn a blank.

Confirmation that the plant is to close will be a bitter blow for the north-east following the decision by Fujitsu to close another microchip plant in the region. A Siemens spokesman said that despite intense efforts

to save the plant, there was little sign of a rescue deal. Workers at the state-of-the-art factory, opened only a year ago by the Queen, will be given the news on Tuesday or Wednesday.

The closure of the plant will trigger the repayment of some of the £50m worth of government grants provided to build the plant. Siemens said that the regional selective assistance it received would be repaid but some other backing, such as training and infrastructure support, may not be recoverable.

When Siemens announced the closure at the end of July, Mr Mandelson said that "every effort" would be made to find a buyer. "Siemens may be leaving north Tyneside but the plant isn't and we must do everything we can to find an alternative owner for it," he said.

The DTI taskforce was led by Andrew Friesen, the head of the Invest in Britain Bureau, and Lou Ariss, the head of personnel at the Siemens plant. In the past few weeks, accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers was brought in to help with the search for a buyer.

Generators to agree coal deal with RJB

THE electricity generators are close to signing long-term coal supply deals with RJB Mining that will help safeguard eight pits and 5,000 miners' jobs.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

The deals are due to be concluded early next month after publication of the Government's energy review and will guarantee RJB sales of 20-25 million tonnes of coal for three years. Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and In-

dustry, is understood to have been involved in helping broker the deal. Last week he approved PowerGen's £1.9bn takeover of East Midlands Electricity on condition that it disposed of two coal-fired power stations. This removed one of the remaining obstacles to a deal with RJB. Weekend reports suggested PowerGen will buy 25 million

tonnes of coal from RJB over the three-year period. This figure is thought to be on the high side although it is clear PowerGen is preparing to buy substantial tonnages. It will burn 12-13 million tonnes of coal this year, of which RJB is so far contracted to supply 1.5 million tonnes.

RJB has been spared from having to close pits because of a fall in electricity imports through the cross-Channel con-

ductor to France. This has resulted in the coal burn at UK power stations since April being 23 per cent higher than last year - creating a market for an extra three million tonnes of coal.

National Power has already signed up to buy 18 million tonnes of coal over the three-year period, while Eastern, the third big fossil-fuel generator, is buying 14 million tonnes. PowerGen is aiming to raise

about £1bn from the sale of the two coal-fired stations. It will sell them with coal supply agreements with RJB intact.

The energy review is likely to re-affirm the moratorium on the building of further gas-fired stations in order to give coal a level playing field.

The one area of uncertainty that remains is how much coal-fired capacity National Power will have to sell. Based on the

size of the PowerGen disposals it could be as much as 6,000 megawatts, or three stations.

The Government has less leverage since National Power has said it has no interest in buying a regional electricity company. However, weekend reports again linked it to a possible bid for London Electricity while British Energy, the nuclear power generator, was said to be eyeing up Yorkshire Electricity.

0171 293 2636

World must rely on Federal Reserve

THE ONE THING that all central bankers agree on at the moment is that they are definitely not planning a co-ordinated cut in interest rates. This is despite the obvious fact that a global, systemic shock threatens the health of the world economy. Exactly why central bankers think that they will help calm financial markets by emphasising the "uncoordinated" aspects of their response to this shock is highly puzzling.

If the central bankers were inclined, as they should be, to treat the world economy as a single entity, instead of examining their own navels, they would surely have realised long ago that monetary policy on a global basis has been too tight for quite a while. In the past year, global inflation (measured by the GDP deflator for OECD countries) has dropped from 1.6 per cent to 1 per cent, and the increase in nominal GDP has fallen from 4.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. These figures are dangerously low.

A sensible target for nominal GDP growth in the main economies would be 4.5 per cent, so a figure of less than 3 per cent should be sounding a major alarm bell. Similarly, with price inflation running at only 1 per cent, there is a very severe danger that further negative demand shocks could lead to absolute declines in overall price levels - ie deflation at an aggregate level. As we saw in the 1930s, and have seen more recently in Japan,



GAVYN DAVIES

There is absolutely no reason why the global central banks should not ease policy

the arrival of deflation essentially nullifies the effectiveness of monetary policy, since real interest rates can ratchet upwards, even when central bankers are attempting to achieve the exact opposite.

One of the potential pitfalls of adopting a low inflation objective (say around 2 per cent) is that it does not take much of a contractionary shock to tip the economy into an unintended deflationary spiral. Since central banks are effectively crippled in such an environment, one might expect them to be extremely eager to avoid a deflationary problem in the first place.

Dangerously low rates of inflation and nominal income growth are not the only reasons for believing that global monetary policy has recently been too tight. Goldman Sachs closely monitors the results of the so-called "Taylor Rule", which calculates the "optimal" level of short-term interest rates, based on the rate of inflation relative to its target and the global output gap. At present, the Taylor Rule indicates that the optimal level of global short rates is 3.3 per cent, around a full percentage point below the level actually being set by the central banks today.

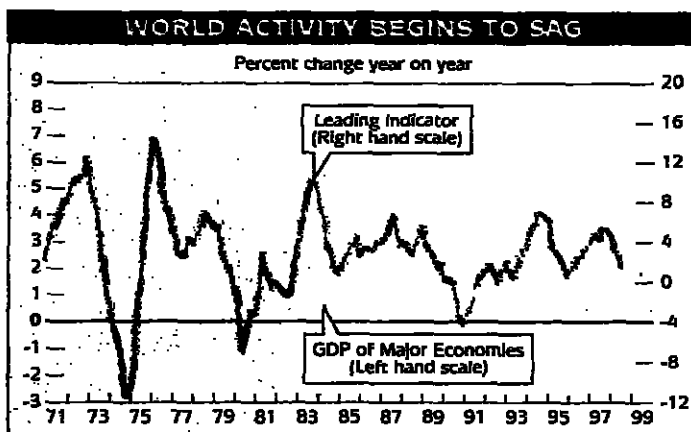
In addition, Goldman calculates an aggregate monetary conditions indicator (MCI) for the G7 economies, taking account of exchange rate changes, short-term interest rates and long-term bond yields. Largely because of the rise in G7 currencies against emerging market currencies since the Asian shock, the MCI has spent most of the past 12 months hovering around 0.5-1.0 per cent tighter than its 10-year average level. Surely, with inflation plummeting towards 1 per cent, the MCI should be easier than average.

Given all this, why do the central banks not ease monetary policy some time ago? Several factors have been at work. First, the region where lower interest rates have most obviously been needed has been Asia, but this is simply not proven possible. In Japan, short rates have al-

ready been close to zero, while in the rest of Asia fears of currency devaluation, linked to the tough conditions attached to International Monetary Fund programmes, have kept interest rates far too high. Second, the Europeans have not only been distracted by the complications of launching the single currency, but they have also persuaded themselves that the EU is less exposed to financial market shocks than either Japan or the US. Third, the US Federal Reserve has rightly been concerned with the tightening of the American labour market, and the increase in equity prices. The Bank of England, with even more cause, has been similarly troubled here. With all these distractions happening in parochial national economies, no-one has been sufficiently far-sighted to recognise the over-riding global need for easier money.

Superimposed on all this, and possibly linked to it, has been a reverberating series of financial market shocks. These, of course, started in Asia last year, triggering large rises in risk premia on all emerging market assets. Initially, financial markets in the West remained immune from these rising risk premia, so the impact of the Asian shock was easily shrugged off by the US and EU economies.

But all this has changed dramatically for the worse in the past few weeks. For the first time, the increase in risk premia in emerging



economies has started to leak into Western financial markets. The most dramatic events have occurred in the credit spread markets, with many swap and asset-backed spreads rising to historic highs. The speed of increase in these spreads has caused large losses among leverage investors, and this has raised doubts about the ability of these entities to finance themselves. The possible failure of important leveraged investors could lead to fire sales of assets which would severely undermine all financial markets.

Despite a further drop in bond yields, US and European share prices have fallen precipitously, with the all-important risk premium on equities therefore starting to rise.

Lower share prices now threaten to damage economic confidence in the West, eliminating the previous immunity of these economies to further trade shocks from the emerging markets. In other words, this cocktail of bad news is much more serious than the isolated Asian shock of 1997. This time, it has the potential, if left unchecked, to cause an outright global recession.

Fortunately, there is absolutely no reason why the global central banks should not ease policy in this environment. Goldman Sachs calculates that the aggregate impact of further Asian and Latin American shocks, taken together with a potential 30 per cent drop in equities from the July peak, would reduce the global economic growth rate by 0.5

per cent this year, by 1.6 in 1999, and by a further 1.6 per cent in 2000. Cumulating these growth effects, the aggregate hit to the level of global GDP would be around 3.5-4 per cent over three years - the largest shock to output since the first oil crisis in 1974.

However, in sharp contrast to the oil shocks - which were highly inflationary as well as recessionary - this would be a deflationary shock. If it is allowed to continue unchecked, it could reduce the global GDP growth rate to under 1 per cent next year, and that in turn could lead to outright price deflation during 2000. Faced with this prospect, one shudders to think what might happen to world financial markets and the banking system.

In view of these systemic threats to the health of the world economy, it would be highly reassuring if the major central banks would act in concert to ease monetary conditions. Failing this, then either the Federal Reserve or the European Central Bank (ECB) needs to use the leadership role, and take decisive action itself.

Sadly, the ECB seems entirely unprepared to do this - which leaves an immense burden of responsibility and expectation on the Federal Reserve. As so often in the past, we can be confident that Mr Greenspan will apply courage and common sense where others in similar positions have been found wanting.



Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president (left) wants to revamp policy; Dr Mahatir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister (centre) has brought in capital controls. Gordon Brown (right) wants more globalisation

Global regulators head for battle of the decade

BY LEA PATERSON

News Analysis: The upcoming IMF/ World Bank meetings look more contentious than ever

THIS YEAR'S annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will take place during the worst global financial crisis for at least a decade. Discussion of how to alleviate the crisis, and how to handle future crises, will dominate the agenda, with topics such as emerging market debt relief given considerably less attention than usual.

Top of the discussion list will be the currency speculators. The speculators have not only been blamed for exacerbating the emerging market crisis by driving down currencies to excessively low levels, but recent developments at Long-Term Capital Management (LTCM) have also underscored the risks that the speculators pose to the financial system.

Last week, the US Federal Reserve was forced to co-ordinate an international bail-out of LTCM amid concerns that the collapse of the fund could endanger the health of the world's banks. The question of how, if at all, the hedge funds can be better-controlled - as well as how economies can protect themselves from the speculators' worst excesses - will take up much of the time of the hundreds of central bankers, regulators and finance officials due to gather in Washington over the coming week. They will be gathering as the US Federal Reserve's policy-making committee meets tomorrow amid rising expectations that it will cut interest rates.

Although the official meetings of the IMF and the Bank do not start until 6 October, most of the key topics will be discussed well in advance at a series of summits. Indeed, policy makers have already started airing the issues. Malaysia, for example, has been

spearheading the "anti-speculator" movement for some time. Dr Mahatir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has been a long-term critic of the currency speculators. More recently, Dr Mahatir took concrete steps to protect his country from volatile capital flow by imposing capital controls.

Hong Kong has also jumped on the "anti-speculator bandwagon". Its recent decision to intervene directly in the financial markets to punish speculators who had, according to some, been "manipulating the markets", underscores Hong Kong's determination to defend its economy against a speculative siege.

Although Western delegates are expected to express concern about the excessive volatility of capital flows, many are worried that a retreat into protectionism could make the long-term situation worse. In a recent speech in Tokyo, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, stressed that the appropriate response to the crisis was more globalisation, not less. He told Japanese bankers: "Protectionism anywhere is a

threat to prosperity everywhere. Closing off national economies only increases regional and international instability." This view is bound to lead to lively discussions with representatives of the emerging market economies over the coming days.

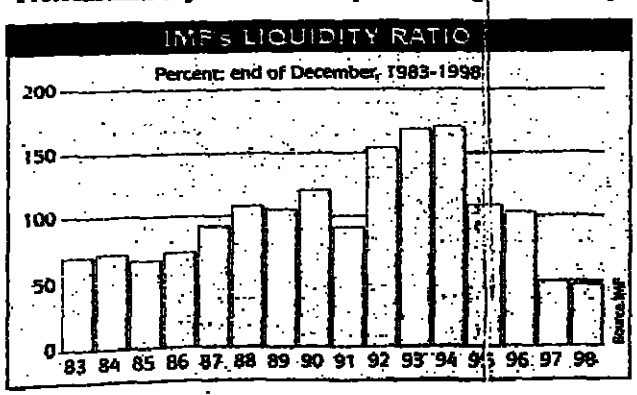
Discussion of the currency speculators will not be limited to the question of how economies can be better-protected from excessively volatile capital flows. Also high on the agenda is the question of how to control the hedge funds, particularly in the wake of last week's LTCM bail-out. International reaction to the bail-out gave a flavour of the discussion to come. Richard Baker, chairman of the Capital Markets Subcommittee of the US House of Representatives, said: "There needs to be clearer transparency in disclosure of risk to counterparties and investors and that does not appear to be the case at the moment."

As well as moves to force individual banks to disclose their exposure to hedge funds, there will also be discussion of whether tighter controls can be imposed on hedge funds. Hedge

funds, as private investment partnerships that are often based offshore, are largely exempt from the stringent financial controls applied to banks.

The structure of the IMF and the World Bank is also set to be a hot topic of debate. The IMF, in particular, is facing a funding crisis, with resources close to record lows. The IMF has been accused of squandering the limited funds it does have available. Some have accused it of exacerbating the problems of the countries to which it lends by insisting on inappropriate economic reforms. Others have criticised the way in which its limited resources are used to defend embattled currencies, as was the case recently in Russia. The issue of "moral hazard" - whereby countries deliberately pursue inappropriate policies in the hope that the IMF will step in and pick up the tab - will also be on the agenda.

Britain and France have already stated their desire to see an overhaul of both the IMF and the Bank. In a recent speech in New York, Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, talked of building "a new Bretton Woods for the next millennium". But although the political mood in London and Paris may strongly favour reform, this is not the case elsewhere. Germany, for example, appears to be strongly opposed to overhauling the two international institutions. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, said last week: "We don't need a new architecture or new organisations, we need new accents in policy." Protectionism versus globalisation. More regulation versus less. New international institutions versus the status quo. The upcoming annual IMF/World Bank meetings should be among the most contentious for many years to come.



Life offices urged to disclose impact of interest rate falls

THE GOVERNMENT is writing to life insurers to assess the impact of an unprecedented plunge in long-term interest rates which is likely to force the industry to set aside billions of pounds in extra reserves. Amid fears that the financial strength of life offices has been weakened by the global financial crisis, the Government Actuary is asking life offices to disclose how far the plunge in long-term interest rates has damaged their balance sheets.

In the first official estimate, the Government Actuary's department forecasts that life offices will have to set aside

BY ANDREW VERITY

between £6bn and £7bn to cover liabilities in one field of business alone - guaranteed annuities.

Life offices in the 1970s and 1980s guaranteed pension customers a minimum rate of income when they eventually bought an annuity. But the unexpected fall in long-term interest rates has made these much more expensive to finance. Sun Life of Canada alone has set aside £114m to make sure it can pay annuity guarantees.

William Hewitson, a senior

official at the Government Actuary's Department, said: "We are writing to all the different life offices asking for more details of exposure to guaranteed annuities in the past. With the current [market conditions] we would estimate that companies would be setting aside something of the order of six or seven billion pounds."

He added that some companies may find they are financially weakened by the problem, leaving them with fewer free assets than before. Free assets are a crucial determinant of the level of annual bonus paid to holders of

endowments, life insurance and pensions.

"It must lead to some reduction in the free asset ratios for a number of companies. We are currently looking at who might be affected. In any case where companies might have a problem, we will be talking to them."

Fears are mounting that the fall-out of the financial crisis will not be confined to annuity guarantees. Experts are increasingly worried it may impair the ability of life insurers to finance new business, and that it could also affect their solvency.

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Roller-coaster market fails to frighten City strategists

THE TURMOIL in the stock market has yet to cause alarm and despondency among City strategists, even those of a bullish disposition.

Although one leading insurance group admits the jittery slump has prompted it to abandon, for the time being, its long cherished and widely followed practice of producing year-end Footsie forecasts, there appears to be a tendency in most quarters to carry on as usual and adopt the legendary advice of a now forgotten Stock Exchange chairman, Lord Ritchie of Dundee.

In 1962, when shares were in ragged retreat, he suggested small investors "should put their heads down and let the wind blow over them". In those days the now little-noticed FT 30 share index suffered its then largest one-day fall, 18 points to 261.3. It was pretty good advice; the FT30 is now around 3,100.

Among strategists looking for the present Footsie 100 share index to end the year at 6,000 points are Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex Brown and Andy Hartwell at SG Securities.

Mr Hartwell has this month raised his 1999 target to 6,750. He says: "The Asian Tiger and the Russian bear have given Goldlocks and the Growth Fairy a severe mauling; both are in intensive care. But the next move is into the recovery ward, not the morgue. Risk remains in the short term but the end game is reflation not deflation as interest rate expectations come down".

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

The BT duo observe: "Market valuations have improved appreciably due to a combination of weaker equity prices and lower gilt yields. Although analysts' profit forecasts have yet to catch up with the extent of the economic slowdown, it is now priced in the market".

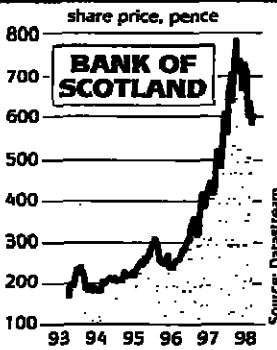
Still Mr Semple admits his confidence that the 6,000 target will be achieved has been eroded by the stock market turbulence. "I do however believe the market will go up over the next 12 months", he says. The current BT target for the end of next year is 6,700.

Goldman Sachs has raised its global equities allocation from 57 to 60 per cent and ABN AMRO, not noted as a bull, observes: "A much needed equity correction has taken place but with it has come an excessively defensive market. Recession has been priced into sector ratings rather than a slowdown and this offers selective buying opportunities." Strategist Mark Brown's Footsie targets are 5,500 this year and 6,000 in June next year.

Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tiney, another who was not excited by the market's heady run, is on 5,200 for the year end and 5,750 for end-1999. It is now a near certainty that interest rates are on their way down. Some US banks have already cut their prime rates, anticipating a reduction by the Federal Open Market Committee this week and even a reluctant Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee seems to have come round to the view a cut is needed.

The hedge fund problems could escalate, banks could find themselves forced into making more wounding provisions and other difficulties, real

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



and rumoured, could emerge to influence the stock market, no doubt producing more of the volatility which has been such a feature this year.

Small investors are becoming accustomed to 100-plus Footsie swings. The computerised order book is a big influence in the Footsie violence but then of course the numbers involved these days are much bigger.

Footsie peaked at 6,179 in July; since then it has been on a ski slope ending last week at 5,061. What has to some extent been overlooked is the demoralisation on the market under

card, where the mid cap and small cap indices seem to be hitting new lows for the year with monotonous regularity.

Although selling may have produced exaggerated price movements it would be foolish to pretend that non-Footsie stocks have not been the subject of some determined unloading. Building and leisure shares have been particularly hit hard.

Manchester United is also on this week's profits agenda although the attentions of Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB and, according to the rumour mill, other potential predators, have kicked profit considerations out of the share equation.

Perhaps that is just as well, as Merrill Lynch earlier this month dramatically sliced its profits estimate - from £27m to £14m. A £15.5m deficit on transfer dealings prompted the revision.

Bank of Scotland is the heavyweight on the reporting schedule. It checks in with interim profits which are expected to be around £425m against £347m when a £23 lease write down took its toll. The sale of a New Zealand offshoot should be booked in the second half year.

It is suspected that the growth of the group's lending offset deteriorating margins.

Bank of Scotland shares have suffered in the banking retreat although they have performed better than some of their rivals. At 55p they are just over 20p below their spring time peak.

Stiff upper lip causes Yorkshire TV trouble

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



A ROW has broken out between Chrysalis Films and Yorkshire Television over money made out of the recent hit independent film *Stiff*. Upper Lips, a satire on British attitudes at the turn of the century.

The story starts in February 1996 when the maker of the film, Ivory Hall of St John's Street, London, appointed Chrysalis as the exclusive sales agent of the film throughout the world for 25 years. Central to the agreement was a clause that allowed Chrysalis to claim back its distribution expenses. So far, Chrysalis has run up a £232,469.61 expenses bill, of which only £85,000 has been repaid.

Under the distribution deal Yorkshire Television agreed to collect money from distributors around the world and funnel it through Chrysalis and Ivory Hall. Chrysalis claims this part of the deal has now "wholly failed", and that Yorkshire is refusing to provide financial details of the sums it collected.

Last week Chrysalis started legal action against Yorkshire for the disputed money, over £187,000, as well as a complete run-down of what has happened to money received by Yorkshire from the sale of the film around the world. In a bizarre co-incidence, one of the parties to the distribution deal was Nigel Wray, the property tycoon and boss of Buryford. Although he is named on Chrysalis's writ as a "defendant", the film company is not seeking money from him.

THE BLIZZARD of litigation cases set off by the collapse of Robert Feld's Resort Hotels group four years ago, with debts of £90m, may finally be coming to court. Around six shareholders' groups and creditor institutions are trying to get some money back through the courts. There are more than a dozen writs in circulation relating to the affair.

Last week Invesco Enterprise Trust had to reissue a writ it brought in April for technical reasons, as the events the writ relate to are getting near the six-year limit for taking legal action. Invesco is claiming damages from the liquidator of Resort Hotels, Ernst & Young. Mr Feld and his professional advisers. The claim is based on

a prospectus for a rights issue by Resort Hotels published on 30 April 1992 by Feld, who forged the figures to make the business look more successful. The rights issue aimed to raise £20.6m.

Feld is currently serving a six-year sentence for fraud. In his original trial Feld was found guilty of lying about the hotel chain's financial position, forging documents and boosting a profits forecast to back up the rights issue. Two years' later the company collapsed leaving over 500 small shareholders out of pocket, almost all of whom are suing for compensation.

Feld was described by the trial judge, Mr Justice Zucker, as "a man of quite appalling dishonesty". Feld's advisers, who are named on Invesco's writ, are Barclays de Zoete Wedd, his broker, and Coopers & Lybrand, his auditor. Bank of Scotland London Nominees is also being sued since it held Resort's shares on Invesco's behalf. Coopers & Lybrand is being sued by different groups of creditors and shareholders.

This year PricewaterhouseCoopers, as the accountancy firm is now known, had a limited victory in court when it attempted to "strike out" a claim from more than 200 Resort shareholders. The case, however, rumbles on and Invesco's lawyers expect their own case may reach court in 18 months to two years' time.

Feld will probably be out of jail well before the legal rows have been settled.

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BUSINESS/17

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SPORT

Boxing: Briton misses golden opportunity to 'sell' unification fight with Holyfield after uninspired world title defence

Lewis less than a knockout in US

BY
GLYN LEACH

THE BEST-LAID plans of mice and men have come to nothing once again for Lennox Lewis. The World Boxing Council heavyweight champion's never-ending battle for recognition and respect in the United States, the spiritual home of heavyweight championship boxing, continues with little or no headway having been made by Lewis's unanimous decision victory - 119-109, 117-112, 117-111 - over Zeljko Mavrovic in Uncasville, Connecticut, on Saturday night. Once again, a Lewis performance has raised more questions than answers.

Lewis had hoped for an emphatic victory over his mandatory challenger from Zagreb, Croatia, with his fight being televised live on "free" TV in the States. Lewis believed that an impressive performance would compare favourably with that of his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation counterpart, Evander Holyfield, who the previous weekend had looked rather ordinary in beating his IBF No 1 contender, Vaughn Bean, in another fight that was shown on mainstream TV.

But rather than enabling Lewis to steal a march on Holyfield, the win - Lewis's 34th in 35 fights - over Mavrovic has served only to confirm what the American public already suspected: that the heavyweight champions are much of a muchness. Neither had fought well enough in their latest outings for one of them to emerge as a clear leader of the pack.

"Someone's got to make this fight happen before one of them gets beat," said Lou DiBella, head of boxing at the premier subscription TV channel in the United States, Home Box Office.

One major difference between the respective fights of the rival champions was that Holyfield-Bean, in Atlanta, was watched by a crowd of over 40,000 people, while Lewis drew less than 10 per cent of that number to the Mohegan Sun casino on Native American land in the Connecticut woods. Clearly, Holyfield is viewed as the senior champion. "I don't think there's any doubt about that," admitted Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward. And by going the distance against Mavrovic, despite the German-based Croat's unbeaten record, Lewis has maintained what for him is a frustrating status quo.

As a European heavyweight, and a white one at that, Mavrovic was expected to be blown away with ease by the WBC champion. And when the relative weights of the fighters became known on Friday, those expectations became heightened: at 15st 4 1/4lb, Mavrovic was his lightest in three-and-a-half years; Lewis, meanwhile, weighed exactly the same as he did for his last defence,



Zeljko Mavrovic feels the force of Lennox Lewis's left hand as the champion finds his range during a successful defence of his WBC heavyweight title in Connecticut on Saturday

Reuters

in March against Shannon Briggs - 17st 5lb.

The two-stone weight advantage was expected to prove decisive for Lewis. Not so. The challenger used his supposed handicap to his advantage, making the 6ft 5in Lewis look slow and lumbering at times. And Mavrovic made a nonsense of the widely held opinion that white heavyweights cannot take a punch; Lewis, without doubt the heaviest hitter of the current crop of big men,

connected cleanly with big shots throughout the bout, but he could not budge the Croat with the Mohawk hairstyle.

"Mavrovic must have 240lb of steel in his chin," commented Frank Maloney, Lewis's London-based promoter and manager.

Afterwards, Lewis tried to excuse a performance that, in reality, had very little wrong with it - quite clearly, many people had underestimated Mavrovic, who had won 27

in succession (22 KOs) entering this fight.

"Look, some fighters give you hard times," said Lewis. "He is ranked No 1. I thought I would knock him out, but give him respect, he has a great chin."

If one were to find fault with Lewis, it would be regarding what appeared to be his suspect stamina. Lewis had not gone the distance since May 1996, against Ray Mercer, and at times he appeared desper-

ately tired against Mavrovic. At the post-fight press conference, the champion was supported by two camp aides when he rose from his seat.

"Lennox was definitely huffing and puffing by the third round," said Steward. "I can't explain why - Lennox definitely trained hard for this fight. Motivation? You can never tell with these guys - they say they are ready to go, but sometimes it must be difficult for them to get up."

Indirectly, Lewis blamed Steward's tactics for his problems, strengthening belief in the widespread rumour that this may be the last time they work together.

"I thought I'd have it easy, but I prepared wrong for this fight," said Lewis. "I thought he was going to try and run. I expected him to go into survival mode, try and box me, counter-punch. But he didn't do any of that."

So, for Lewis, the struggle con-

tinues. In his 10 years as a professional following gold medal success at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, and despite his always having shown willing to fight the best opposition available, Lewis is still regarded as the other heavyweight champion. And unless he can somehow persuade Holyfield to meet him - a fight that many believe Holyfield simply does not want, despite his statements to the contrary - that situation will remain unaltered.

Hide must seek better credentials

HERBIE HIDE is ready to help Lennox Lewis fill his calendar should the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion's proposed fight with Evander Holyfield fail to materialise, writes Glyn Leach. Hide, the 27-year-old World Boxing Organisation champion, destroyed his solemn-faced mandatory contender, Frankfurt's Willi Fischer, after 64 seconds of round two on home ground at the Norwich Sports Village on Saturday night. And after watching Lewis defend his title against Zeljko Mavrovic later that evening in Connecticut, Hide was brimming with confidence.

"People have said I'm too small to be able to beat Lennox, but I'm not as small as Mavrovic and he did well enough," said Hide. "Mavrovic doesn't punch anywhere near as hard as me; I'm bigger and stronger than Mavrovic, and I'm much, much faster."

Against Fischer, Hide proved once more that what he lacks in size by contemporary heavyweight standards - he weighed 15st 10lb for this second defence of his second tenure as WBO champion - he makes up for with speed, accuracy and aggressive intent. Fischer, whose brow was already heavily furrowed when he en-

tered the ring with a won-lost-drawn record of 21-1-1 (16 KOs), was taken apart in round two when Hide scored the German the requisite number of times for the fight to be terminated under the WBO's three-knockdown (in one round) rule.

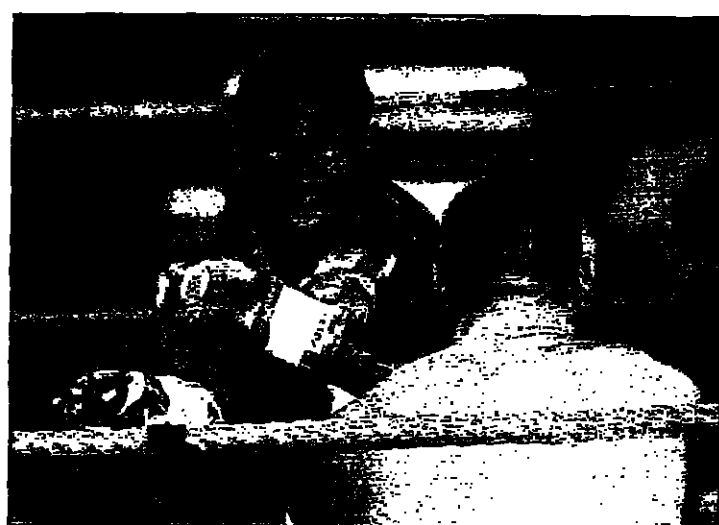
It was an impressive performance by the champion, who won his 31st fight (30 by KO) against one defeat (to Riddick Bowe for this title in March 1995). But there is very little chance of a WBC-WBO unification bout with Lewis taking place in the near future - at present there just is not enough interest to make it worth Lewis's while.

A series of spectacular victories over respected opposition would aid Hide's cause; without even breaking sweat, Hide can blow away lesser fighters like Fischer. But Lewis would be another matter entirely and Hide needs to establish a more impressive set of credentials before American television would accept him as an opponent for the WBC champion.

The evening ended in utter disappointment for another Norwich fighter, Jon Thaxton, who was stopped after two minutes, 14 seconds of round seven by an unsung American substitute, Emanuel Burton. Thaxton lost his WBO and In-

ternational Boxing Federation Intercontinental light-welterweight championships. The result was a considerable upset. The 24-year-old had been the WBO's No 1 contender for some time and an attempt on the sanctioning body's title proper cannot have been far away.

The defeat - Thaxton's fourth in 20 fights - was a major blow not only for Thaxton, but also for Frank Warren, who has lost a major ticket-seller; Thaxton has regularly been used to prop up Norfolk cards featuring Hide, whose catalogue of brushes with the law has left him somewhat unpopular in his home area.



Herbie Hide on his way to beating Willi Fischer

AP

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Football Fans Guide, Janet Williams (Collins Willow, paperback, £9.99).
- 2 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
- 3 Survival of the Fattest 4, Edited by David Jenkins and Judi Holly (Red Card, paperback, £9.99).
- 4 Reg Gutteridge - My Autobiography, Reg Gutteridge with Peter Batt (Blake Publishing, hardback, £16.99).
- 5 Rothmans Rugby Union Yearbook 1998-1999, Mick Cleary and John Griffiths, (Headline, paperback, £17.99).
- 6 A Life In Racing - Some You Win, Julian Wilson (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
- 7 Inside the All Blacks, Robin McConnell, (Harper Collins (NZ), hardback, £17.99).
- 8 Big Ron - A Different Ball Game, Ron Atkinson and Peter Fittion (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £17.99).
- 9 Referee! A Year In The Life Of David Elleray, David Elleray (Bloomsbury, hardback, £16.99).
- 10 The Paddy and the Prince - The Making of Naseem Hamed, Nick Pitt (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £16.00).

Compiled by Sportspages Bookshops, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London W1 (0171 240 9804) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

Strange mix of Goss' cocktail of optimism

Close to the Wind (Headline, £18.99)
by Pete Goss

IT IS quite likely that the name of Pete Goss will become much more widely known over the next four or five years, especially in Britain. He is on the verge of becoming a "property", a commodity, a brand, and if that happens then a lot of people will be sending out for a copy of *Close to the Wind* to see if they can find out a little more about him.

They will be richly rewarded, so here is an opportunity to be in on the ground floor of understanding how an achiever ticks. In future, also, Goss himself may regret a little just how honest he has been. He

BOOK OF
THE WEEK

knows how to play hardball, no doubt, but on the evidence of all he has written he would not be in the top echelons of poker players.

If written by someone else about him, the script would too often seem unbelievable, but it is true. If written by some other people about themselves, it would either have slipped into the turgid or been so brazenly boastful that it would have been unacceptable. Goss avoids both, but not just because of his honesty but because he has a genuine talent for writing tense narrative.

Goss is neither a fool nor an angel, but he has no fear of treading a path that defies rational analysis. It comes straight from the heart. Lord knows who put together the chemical mix that fashions his character, but, if he could sell it, he would be a millionaire by Christmas. To say that it has produced boundless optimism would be a pathetic understatement of the cocktail that drives this man. Even his moments of despair are conducted in the most character-building positive light.

If the book has a fault it is that it shamelessly rolls the credits for all those who have ever helped him take on the projects which are his life, sailing some of the earth's most difficult oceans on the edge of losing his life.

Even this, however, is explained. He says he has studied carefully how to approach potential sponsors and backers, so a little extra massage in print is to be expected.

What may not be expected is the way in which Goss takes you so vividly on board with him at his worst moments, including some pretty gory self-surgery. Nothing Ian Fleming ever wrote has you wondering so anxiously how the hero is going to get out of this little pickle.

Whether it be transatlantic or, most spectacularly in the rescue of Frenchman Raphael Dinelli in the Southern Ocean, for which he was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, the book would be worth buying just

for those chapters. The bonus is trailed on the jacket. A triumph over adversity it says. Yes, but often that adversity teaches us all a lesson.

Even the title has a double meaning. *Close to the wind* is generally interpreted as taking risk or being in danger. But when a boat is sailing too close to the wind it slows down, can grind to a halt, even change to a direction you did not want. Lots of people have dreams and ideas. That is the easy bit. Making them happen is the hard part. There can never be too many examples. No wonder he is being pencilled in as front man for a future British America's Cup campaign.

Stuart Alexander

09/21/2015

Monty is back on top of his game

COLIN MONTGOMERIE hit the best putting streak of his career to reclaim his accustomed place on top of the Order of Merit by winning the German Masters yesterday after an excellent final round of 67.

Victory lifted the 35-year-old Scot over Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke to the top of the money list, more than £111,000 clear, and with only two events left he is the firm favourite to collect a sixth consecutive Vardon Trophy. It was Montgomerie's second win in his last four events and almost guaranteed him a place in next year's Ryder Cup after a remarkable turnaround in fortunes.

Four weeks ago, he missed

ORDER OF MERIT

1 C Montgomerie	£760,077.45
2 L Westwood	£648,151.74
3 D Clarke	£616,867.10
4 P Sjoland (Swe)	£451,016.90

the cut for a second successive week at the BMW International in Munich, the first time he has suffered such an ignominy since 1991. That prompted a return to working under Bill Ferguson after a two-year separation and putting lessons from Dave Pelz, an American, and all the hard work paid off handsomely on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course with rounds of 65, 68, 66 and 67.

"It proved I'm coming through the bad spell," Montgomerie said. "When I started back with Bill I told him it would be nice to win twice by the end of the year and I've won twice in three weeks so it's encouraging. I think in the last month I've had the best putting statistics of my whole career."

"I'm not playing 100 per cent but I'm able to go for shots where before I didn't know

GOLF
By PHIL CASEY
in Cologne

whether it was going right or left. I was just having a nice game of golf today until Robert Karlsson went eagle, birdie and I was one behind and knew I had to make two birdies which I did."

Those birdies came at the par five 13th and 15th and set up a tense finish, Montgomerie having to hole a five-foot putt on the 18th for victory. "That was more about courage than skill," he said.

Montgomerie's total of 266, 22-under-par, gave him a one-shot victory over the US PGA champion, Vijay Singh, and Sweden's Robert Karlsson, who had a shot further back after finishing with five birdies in his last seven holes.

Westwood, who had been £22,000 ahead of Montgomerie, rallied with a last round 66 after yesterday's 72 to finish on 17-under in a tie for sixth place. Darren Clarke, second at the start of the week, finished with a 69 and tied 21st, at 13 under.

Westwood was delighted with his last round 66 after a disappointing 72 on Saturday ruined his chances, a birdie on the last proving valuable.

"I said a three up the last could be worth it's weight in gold, it could make a big difference," Westwood said. "I gave myself a kick up the backside last night. Yesterday was awful and blew my chances but today I redeemed myself."

Nick Faldo finished with a 68, his seventh sub-par round in the last two events, to earn some more valuable Ryder Cup points, after finishing two shots ahead of Seve Ballesteros.

Scores, Digest, page 23



The sea churns as 1,700 competitors begin the first discipline of yesterday's Nice Triathlon on the French Riviera won by the Dutchman Rob Barel, who completed the gruelling swim-cycle-run event in 5hr 50min 27sec, ahead of the Frenchman Jérôme Sanson

Old Boys take control Sheffield move clear

HOCKEY
By BILL COLWILL

John Read at another penalty corner settled the game. Coventry and North Warwick's new coach, Gavin Featherstone, got off to a good start with a 3-1 win against Chesterfield, with two goals from Chris Roberts on his comeback and one from Adrian Adams. Paul Speed replied for Chesterfield.

With new signing Richard Ambrose injured in a car accident on Saturday and without the Day brothers, West Herts fell to a 3-0 defeat by near rivals Blueharts. Jersey notched eight goals without reply against Bodmin Dragons, while former winners Nottingham won 9-2 at Worcester Norton.

BASKETBALL
By RICHARD TAYLOR

Gaudio then added nine free throws in the final period, the last two opening a 91-87 lead before a deciding three-pointer from London's Dwaine Morton took the final score to 91-90 for the Sharks.

Derby's four-game winning start ended in a 109-105 overtime defeat at home to Newcastle Eagles, who won their first game of the season. Ralph Blalock scored nine of Newcastle's 13 points in the extra period after his teammate Carl Miller had tied the full-time scores on 96-96 with two free throws.

Leicester still wait for their first win after a 106-101 over-

time defeat at Worthing Bears. The Riders led 92-88 with only 19 seconds left in regulation time but Larry Coates forced overtime with a three-pointer at 94-94.

Gene Waldron returned to the Riders for the first time since breaking his leg in last January's cup final and gave them a 99-96 lead, but the Bears hit the next seven points. Jaron Boone led all scorers with 38 points for Leicester, but despite the return of Waldron the team are still lacking a point guard after being unable to re-sign Geno Ford, who has remained in America to obtain a masters degree.

Manchester Giants, inspired by a 35-point haul from Tony Dorsey, overcame Milton Keynes Lions 86-64.

Golding all alone in the lead

MIKE GOLDING, of Britain, was leading the Around Alone race after the first 24 hours. He has coxed the 60-foot Group 4 into a seven-mile advantage after leaving Charleston, South Carolina on the 6,750-mile first leg to Cape Town.

Chasing him in equal second was another Briton, Josh Hall, and France's Isabelle Autissier, in their 60-footers, Gannone Investments and PRB, with another Frenchman, Marc Thiercelin, fourth in Some-

SAILING
By STUART ALEXANDER

where, and, unexpectedly, one of the favourites, Italy's Giovanni Soldini, fifth in Fila.

But Soldini was taking a more northerly route as the fleet picked its way through some light north-easterlies, hunting for solid breeze which will take them south. The problem is in skirting the huge patches of light winds left in the

wake of Hurricane George and the fear that the area of doldrums will be unusually large.

Ian Walker dedicated his share in the Melges 24 World Championship at the weekend to Johnny Merricks, in tribute to his former Olympic partner. The 1996 silver medal pair in the 470 dinghy was leading the European championship for the Melges when a car crash claimed the life of Merricks last year in Italy.

The Italian, Giorgio Zucchi, went in to the final day in the lead having put enough distance between himself and the American, Brian Porter, to hope he could add the world title to the European one he won in 1995.

However, the Italian was pipped by Walker and had his appeal at an appeals meeting thrown out, when he claimed that Walker had unfairly used lighter crew on board for four of the races, which were staged in lighter conditions.

Adelaide win final verdict

ADELAIDE CONTINUED to celebrate the successful defence of their Australian Football League title, with a crowd of 50,000 welcoming home the team which beat North Melbourne by 35 points on Saturday.

Fans started arriving at the Adelaide Showgrounds early yesterday morning to get a prime position and entertained themselves with repeated singing of the club song.

Adelaide won Saturday's final 15.15 (105) to 8.22 (70) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The team will be honoured again on Tuesday with a motorcade through the city, an event that attracted 120,000 people last year.

Captain Mark Bickley felt that this year's victory was probably even more special

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

than last year's first Premiership for the club. "It was just fantastic," he said. "A lot of people thought we wouldn't go as far as we did, but we hung in there and came up trumps."

Adelaide made a remarkable second-half comeback before a crowd of almost 95,000, including the former boxing champion Muhammad Ali, the half-time guest of honour.

Adelaide's Darren Jarman and Andrew McLeod excelled for the second year in a row - Jarman was the top scorer while McLeod was voted best player in the final.

North, winners of their previous 11 matches and pre-match favourites, wasted their chances with poor kicking.

Hackett races to world record

WORLD CHAMPION distance swimmer Grant Hackett slashed almost seven seconds off the men's 1,500 metres freestyle world record at the Australian short-course championships in Perth yesterday.

The 18-year-old clocked 14 min 19.55sec to smash fellow Australian Kieren Perkins' previous record of 14:26.22 set in 1993 in Auckland, New Zealand.

"I knew I could beat the world record one day but never did I think I could take seven seconds off a record held by Perkins," Hackett said.

Hackett was on course to smash Perkins' record from the outset of the race at the Challenge Stadium in the West Australian capital of Perth.

He was more than two seconds under record pace at the 500m mark and more than four

seconds ahead when he turned at the 1,000m mark.

"This was one of the greatest performances in the history of swimming," said a Swimming Australia spokesman, Ian Hanson. "The crowd got behind him and gave him a standing ovation for the last 500m of the race - it was incredible."

Hackett is the reigning world champion for 1,500m at both long-course (50m pool) and short-course (25m pool), but has always lived in the shadow of Perkins.

Hackett won the long-course world title in Perth in January when Perkins failed to make the Australian team, before easily beating him to win the gold at this month's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Spain celebrates Olano's return to form

ABRAHAM OLANO gave Spain their first Tour of Spain triumph for seven years yesterday.

When the tall Basque rider pulled out on the seventh day of last year's Vuelta, some fans were very disappointed following his fourth place in the 1997 Tour de France. Olano complained of lack of power, and doctors discovered that the problem was septic tonsils.

CYCLING

Now Olano feels he is approaching the winning streak of two years ago when, during the reign of Miguel Indurain, he won gold ahead of Indurain in the 1996 world road race championship in Colombia and silver in the time-trial championship.

Spain dubbed him a natural successor to Indurain, but that

was not the role Olano sought. Now he has upstaged Spain's most celebrated racer by winning the Vuelta. The closest Indurain came was second in 1991.

Olano still has his critics - not least Pedro Delgado, who won the 1988 Tour de France and the Vuelta a year later. "You can usually say the best rider won the Vuelta but this time it was the best team," Delgado

wrote in the Spanish sports paper Marca. "Olano has not demonstrated that he is a brilliant winner. When he had a bad day he did not know how to respond at the critical moment."

Olano countered: "When you have the leader's yellow jersey you need to ride defensively." But Spanish supporters are just happy that the yellow jersey will stay at home this year.

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Sunspangled enjoys her second wind

BY SUE MONTGOMERY
at Ascot

THE REASONS why horses do not win races would fill a small library with a large fiction section. But Aidan O'Brien's explanation after Sunspangled avenged two previous defeats by Edahiya to win the Group One Fillies Mile here yesterday was a new one, though it owed nothing to the imagination.

The pretty chestnut had acted as a windbreaker on her previous outing, when she led the Moylagh Stud Stakes field into the teeth of a gale at the Curragh three weeks ago. "She was out on her own being buffeted with the others sheltering behind her," said her trainer, "so of course she was tired at the end. But we knew she'd finished only fifth, so we saw no reason not to take on the winner again and give her the chance to show how good she is."

This time it was Sunspangled's turn to take cover, and the change of tactics worked the oracle. Mick Kinane produced the daughter of Caerleon to tackle Edahiya well inside the final furlong and put

her white-starred head in front in the last few strides. A neck behind her, Calando finished strongly to nick second place from Edahiya by a short head, and although close finishes are often perceived to be an indication of the ordinary that is surely not the case here as it was a full nine lengths back to fourth-placed Alabaster.

The time of the race, faster than the colt's equivalent, the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Steer Point
(Easter 2.40)
NB: Sconced
(Hamilton 2.50)

Royal Lodge Stakes, an hour earlier, was very creditable considering the testing underfoot conditions and all three fillies are regarded as material for next year's Classics.

Sunspangled, one of the high-class bunch of juveniles who run from Ballydoyle for the Michael Tabor/John Magnier team, was only the second Irish-trained winner in 25 runnings of the Fillies' Mile, after King back in 1978. The Oaks is the ob-

vious target for the stoutly-bred filly, a half-sister to ill-fated French filly, Edahiya, but O'Brien warned: "She has plenty of speed and can quicken, and we'll be thinking of the Guineas too. She is a lovely filly with a lovely temperament."

Calando, bred by Sheikh Mohammed from his 1987 winner of the race, Diminendo, was slightly chopped for form early in the straight and lost nothing (except the £103,550 first prize) in defeat. An ambitious tilt at the juvenile fillies' race at the Breeders' Cup meeting at Churchill Downs in early November is still on the cards for the daughter of Storm Cat.

Her trainer, David Loder, who reported his Queen Elizabeth II Stakes hero Elzabeth Prince in rude health yesterday after his exertions of Saturday, said: "It's a big plan but she was closing very fast and there is another 16th (of a furlong) in Kentucky, which could make all the difference."

Sheikh Mohammed had to be content with the runner-up spot in the Royal Lodge Stakes too after his brother Hamdan's Mutaaah won Glamis out of the



Mutaaah (Richard Hills, left) wears down Glamis (Frankie Dettori) to win the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot yesterday Robert Hallam

Group 2 prize by half a length, an exact replication of the form shown by the two colts when they met at Goodwood 17 days ago. Then, Mutaaah made all; this time he came from behind and showed great resolution to squeeze between Glamis and the fading favourite Desart.

who got rather bogged down in the ground, well inside the final furlong for his fourth victory from six outings.

But there was a two-year-old winner in the maroon and white in the shape of Mukhalif, who was not unduly pressed to beat the promising newcomer

Zaefer in the opening seven-furlong conditions stakes and take his record to two from two. Mukhalif, another Caerleon offspring, will now begin his winter holiday in Dubai, leaving Loder stablemates such as Berlioz and Lujain to deal with the top autumn contests.

The winning performance of well-backed Silken Dalliance in the Mail on Sunday Mile Final was in sharp contrast to her efforts on her previous appearance, when she finished 17th of 19 at Newbury nine days ago after - according to her trainer Lord Huntingdon - sitting down

in the stalls and missing the break. The filly's apparent improvement in form was noted by the Ascot stewards, who will forward details to their counterparts at Jockey Club headquarters in London for further investigation.

HAMILTON

2.20 LUCKY GITANO
2.50 Sconced
3.20 Norcott Joy
3.50 Codfild

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).
STALLS: 1m and 1m1m; remainder standard size.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 81 and 82.
Right-hand underdog, but with a slight edge.
Course is N of town on 187071. Hamilton West station (service from Glasgow) 1m.
ADMISSION: Club £2; Grandstand and Paddock £7 (8A for OAPs, disabled & students). Accompanied under 16s free at enclosure. CAR PARKING: 100 spaces.
LEADING TRAINERS: P. Hamilton 21-02 (208%), Mrs M. Reveley 19-02 (144%), Miss L. Penney 23-02 (82%), P. Hamilton 21-02 (208%), Mrs M. Reveley 19-02 (144%), Miss L. Penney 23-02 (82%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Weaver 48-07 (287%), K. Darby 33-04 (82%), J. Carr 28-07 (22%), N. Kennedy 15-04 (14%), G. Duffield 14-02 (32%).
FAVOURITES: 22-05 (287%), 23-05 (287%).
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Volla Pavement (820) has been sent 441 miles.
LINKED FIRST TIME: Happy Days (25).

2.20 'MANK' CONNECTION MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (E) £3,500 added 2V0 1m Penalty Value £2,738
1. 4600 LUCKY GITANO (2) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LL) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

2.50 GROUNDSTAFF AWARD WINNERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,000 added 2V0 1m 1f Penalty Value £2,400
1. 3000 LUCKY GITANO (2) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

2.50 GROUNDSTAFF AWARD WINNERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,000 added 2V0 1m 1f Penalty Value £2,400
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2.50 GROUNDSTAFF AWARD WINNERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £2,000 added 2V0 1m 1f Penalty Value £2,400
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Di Canio's push risks his career

IT IS customary for the name on the scoresheet to grab most of the post-match attention, but in this case poor old Lee Briscoe had to play second fiddle to the names on the charge sheet.

With Wednesday's Paolo Di Canio suspended indefinitely by his club and facing an FA disrepute charge and Arsenal's Patrick Vieira helping South Yorkshire police with their inquiries after an alleged incident in the tunnel at the end of the match even Martin Keown, who rather unambiguously confined himself to getting sent off, barely gets a look-in.

Briscoe's last-minute goal ended Arsenal's unbeaten

BY PHIL ANDREWS

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Arsenal 0

record, bringing the champions back to earth after their demolition of Manchester United and lifting Wednesday's self-esteem following their rejection from the Worthington Cup by Third Division Cambridge United. But it was overshadowed by a shameful episode in the 44th minute that will once again put English football in the dock.

It began innocuously enough, with Vieira shimmying from Wednesday's Dutch midfielder Wim Jonk well inside his own half, and being hauled back by

his shirt-tail. Vieira responded with an ill-tempered shove and Jonk pirouetted rather theatrically to the ground.

A free-kick and a yellow card apiece seemed in order, but whether prompted by the Frenchman's push or the suspicion that the Dutchman was trying to get him sent off, a major international incident quickly ensued, with at least a dozen players who had not been initially involved rushing to the scene. Prominent among them was Di Canio, whose manifold skills do not include diplomacy.

He was clearly seen to aim a kick at the Arsenal centre-back Keown, whose only offence seemed to be to defend himself

against the onslaught. Di Canio had to go, but when the referee, Paul Alcock, brandished the card he saw red then in more ways than one, giving the official a petulant two-handed shove in the chest that sent him staggering back to end up sprawled on the pitch.

Di Canio's manager, Danny Wilson, with whom he has had a tempestuous relationship over the past few weeks, immediately suspended the player indefinitely and sent him home. But even more draconian punishment must surely follow from the FA, and Di Canio's future at Hillsborough and in the English game must once again be in doubt.

"The severity of the incident is unquestionable. I just don't know what went through his mind," Wilson said. "His emotions were very mixed up and best thing to do was to get him down the tunnel and out of the ground as quickly as possible."

The unfortunate Keown also received his marching orders, but his case is likely to attract more sympathy. The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, said that he would consider an appeal after studying the match video, and denied there had been any incident in the tunnel involving Vieira.

Wrapped around all this was a football match, which was won by Wednesday because they proved to be better at the 10-a-side game.

Before the fracas, only the heroics of their goalkeeper Kevin Pressman had kept them in the match. You will not find his technique in many of the textbooks, but he has the uncanny ability to get some part of his anatomy in the way of the ball.

He denied Ray Parlour with one hand, Nicolas Anelka with his chest and Dennis Bergkamp, still nervously seeking his first goal of the season, with his left boot before Briscoe came on with just half an hour left.

The substitute ought to have put Wednesday in front with a free header before Jonk found him at the angle of the penalty area, and his delicate chip eluded Arsenal's goalkeeper Alex Manninger and floated under

the bar. Ritchie Humphreys should have doubled Wednesday's lead when he shot wide with only Manninger to beat in the dying seconds, but by then the Sheffield faithful were already discussing how long it would be before they were saying Ciao Paolo - it's arrivederci England.

Goal: Briscoe (89) 1-0. Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Pressman; Coblen, Thorne, Walker, Hinchliffe; Atkinson, Jonk (Maghvin, 55), Rodi, Alexander (Briscoe, 39); Di Canio, South (Humphreys, 19). Substitutes not used: Barnett, Clarke (90).

Arsenal (4-4-2): Manninger; Vicks, Keown, Adams, Winterburn; Bergkamp, Vieira, Peto (Hughes, 77), Owen (Bould, 45); Parlour (Ljungberg, 77). Arsenal's substitutes not used: Gards, Taylor, Haulander, P. Alcock (Barry).

Bookings: Wednesday's Thorne, Arsenal's Winterburn, Vicks. Sendings-off: Wednesday's Di Canio, Arsenal's Keown. Man of the match: Pressman. Attendance: 27,949.

Smith fails to achieve his goal

BY GUY HODGSON

Everton 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

FOR A moment you thought one supporter had seen enough. "This is a message for Joe Soap," the FA system shouted, "in the top balcony. Please contact the head steward." The poor man was not considering throwing himself off, surely?

The supporter's name has been changed to protect the innocent, but the guilty will be named and there was one man in the frame. Blackburn's Roy Hodgson, deprived of three strikers, had mitigating circumstances; Walter Smith ought to have been urgently seeking a very good brief.

Surprisingly, the Everton manager seemed to be only vaguely aware a crime had been committed. "You start out in a new job and try to make yourselves difficult to beat," Smith said, "and maybe we're stretching it a bit too far at the moment. We're not taking the extra chance to get a goal at home."

Remember that word "maybe". Bear in mind Blackburn had lost the services of Chris Sutton, Kevin Gallacher and Kevin Davies and a home back four comprised entirely of centre-backs seems excessive. Add two full-backs as the wide men in midfield and Smith was not looking for a security blanket, he was after an entire bedding store.

It was a safety-first approach when Martin Dahlin and Damien Duff made up the Blackburn strike force, but by the finish the tactics had become farcical when four strapping six-footers had to counter the "threat" of a one-man attack that was Garry Flitcroft. Funny enough they managed it quite easily.

On this evidence Oliver Cromwell had a more cavalier attitude than Smith and with Blackburn acutely aware of a start that had yielded four points from six matches, the game began poorly and descended quickly. "You want me to analyse the match?" Hodgson asked with a grim smile. "That won't take long. The ball was either in the air or in the stand."

Rarely did it stray from those two undesirable. After 42 minutes Nick Barryby contradicted the norm, headed into Duncan Ferguson's path and the Scot swung his huge right leg to hit a post from a range of 25 yards. As the ball rebounded to safety, Everton's chance of scoring their first home goal in the Premiership this season evaporated into thin air.

Blackburn themselves did not manage a shot on target and sadly as so often this season, the attention strayed from the cross the players served and on to the decisions of the officials.

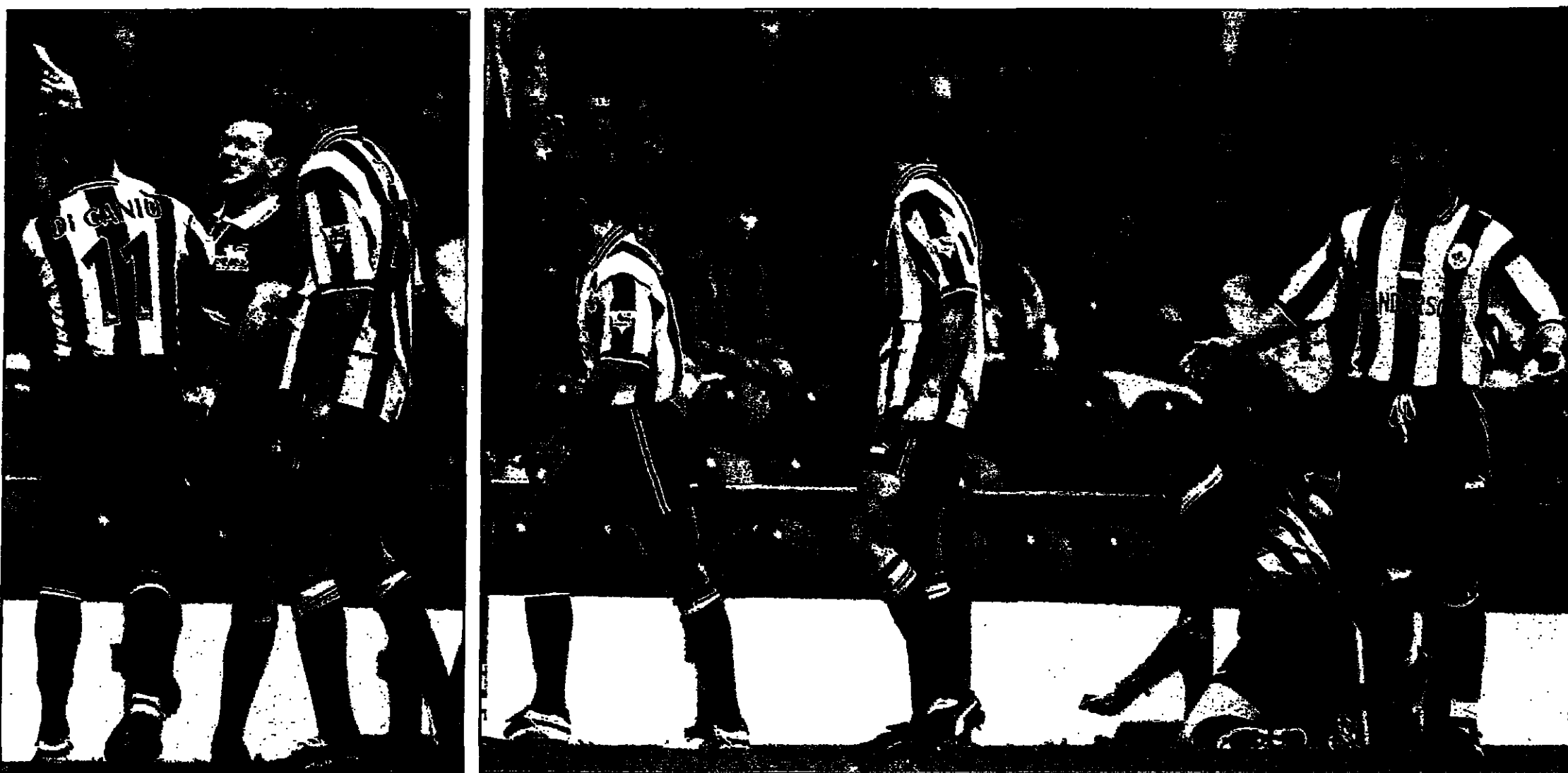
The sending-off of Dahlin after 79 minutes was vindicated by a television replay which showed the Swedish striker had flung his arm into Marco Materazzi's face, but his dismissal was accompanied by eight bookings which did not reflect the character of the proceedings.

"I don't think Everton are an aggressive team and I don't think it was an aggressive game," Smith said. "People will look at the number of bookings and think there was a war going on, but you can't say it was a dirty match."

Hodgson, who has had players sent off in successive matches, concurred. "At the moment we are on the wrong side of the referee and the sooner we get on the good side the better. It seemed our players had only to complain or kick the ball three yards to get into trouble."

Mild compared to events elsewhere but a theme of conflict between managers, players and officials is developing. Perhaps Sepp Blatter, general secretary of the world game's governing body, FIFA, should stop trying to be amusing during the Worthington Cup draw and address the problem.

Everton (4-4-2): Myhre; Short, Vernon, Matarazzi, Unsworth; Cleland (Cox, 75), Hutchinson, Collins, Bell, Ferguson, Barrington (Kidd, 45). Substitutes not used: Ferrell, Thomas, Gerrard (90). Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Flowers; Dally, Hendrick, Peacock, Davidson; Kennedy, Flitcroft, Sherwood, Wilton, Smith. Bookings: Unsworth, Unsworth, Short, Flitcroft, Hendrick, Sherwood, Peacock, Hendrick, Wilton, McInally. Sendings-off: Blackburn's Dahlin. Man of the match: Hutchinson. Attendance: 36,044.



Sheffield Wednesday's Paolo Di Canio is sent off (above left) by referee Paul Alcock during Saturday's game with Arsenal and then stalks off after pushing Alcock to the ground (right) Reuters

When the lid blew off the volcano Alcock forced to consider future

RON ATKINSON, then Sheffield Wednesday manager, uttered perhaps the definitive judgement on Paolo Di Canio last season. "I've managed a few nutters in my time but Paolo takes the biscuit," he said.

Wherever he goes, Di Canio delights the fans with his often sublime skills while infuriating officials with his inability to keep his mouth shut. The Italian has changed clubs nine times in his 13-year career, and there were signs of trouble two years ago, right at the beginning of his British sojourn, when Celtic played Arsenal in a pre-season friendly.

"He'll have to be careful about how far he goes here," the Arsenal defender, Lee Dixon, said after Di Canio had been involved in a couple of incidents, including one with Dixon which nearly involved the insertion of Di Canio's finger up

Trouble has not followed Paolo Di Canio on his many travels - he has brought it with him. By Chris Maume

the Arsenal defender's nostril as he laboured to make his point. "However, I'm sure he'll learn quickly," Dixon went on. "If he doesn't, referees will clamp down hard."

A few months later, the Italian brought the fury of Scottish referees upon his head when he accused them of religious bias against Celtic, and by the end of the season relations between club and player were at a similarly low ebb, the Italian giving Celtic 10 days to sort out his problems. The trouble was, according to the club's general manager, Jack Brown, Di Canio had not actually told anyone what his problems were.

The Italian poured oil on troubled waters by issuing an

open letter attacking the chairman, Fergus McCann, and a few days later, he refused to play in the UEFA Cup against Inter Cable Tel, returning to Italy instead, suffering from "stress". He also turned down a pre-season trip to the Netherlands, saying that his time would be better spent with his personal trainer. Inevitably, he was soon on his way, moving to Sheffield Wednesday in August last year.

His stay at Wednesday has been a little less eventful, though, by his own admission. Atkinson spent much of last season keeping him away from the other players in training. "If I've broken up one fight between Paolo and Des Walker

this season, I've broken up a hundred," Atkinson said. "They never stop bitching at each other and Paolo just winds him up. Managing Paolo is like trying to keep the lid on a volcano - bloody hard."

There was another eruption when Wednesday were at Watford in the third round of the FA Cup last season. The linesman awarded a throw against Di Canio, who was booked for dissent. At this, he exploded, shouting in the referee's face, stamping his feet and windmilling his arms. A red card followed, unsurprisingly, together with a £40,000 fine from the club.

Atkinson's successor, Danny Wilson, immediately found

problems with the Italian, who kicked off the season saying, "I've told the chairman and the manager that if we do not make three more signings then we are in for the same problem we had last season."

"It would be easy for me to keep my mouth shut, do my training and play the games," Di Canio replied, "but no one is going to put a towel over my mouth and gag me". And last week, after Wilson described his players as "fancy-dans" following their Worthington Cup defeat to Cambridge, Di Canio returned fire. "He's a young manager and perhaps a little immature, so perhaps he thinks attacking his own players in public is the way to show strength," he said.

Now Di Canio's own maturity is in question - not to mention his future in English football.

PAUL ALCOCK, the referee at the centre of the Paolo Di Canio controversy, was considering his future yesterday after being pushed to the ground by the Italian on Saturday.

"I have spoken to Paul three times to give him support as he was very shocked - it is something you don't expect to happen," said Philip Don, the Premier League's referees' officer. "He's obviously going to think about his future - whether he continues as a referee has entered his mind."

"When things like that happen you have to consider your place in the game, but I am sure I will see him refereeing in the Premier League in a couple of weeks."

Don said it was the worst violence he had seen towards a match official in English foot-

ball. He said: "There was an incident last season when David Batty pushed David Elleray when he sent him off in a Blackburn-Newcastle match but it was not as bad. I've never known it to happen as it did here."

Alcock has been involved in a physical confrontation with a player once before. In December 1991 Frank Sinclair received a three-match suspension, which was then reduced to one match by an FA disciplinary commission, after clashing heads with Alcock in a Second Division match at Exeter.

Sinclair, who last month moved from Stamford Bridge to Leicester, was on loan from Chelsea to West Bromwich Albion at the time of the incident.

Gascoigne's brain is still in gear but his legs leave him stalled

IT'S TOUGH when you've got to defend an ageing midfielder, dodgy undercarriage and all. "Trouble is that you people (the London press) don't see enough of him," Bryan Robson said sharply. "If you'd seen our last three matches he was outstanding."

Who else but Paul Gascoigne, the most naturally gifted English footballer of his generation.

Middlesbrough's manager knew that someone was bound to dwell on Gascoigne's fiftieth birthday, his struggle to keep up with the Premiership's relentless pace and physical commitment. On the evidence of their defeat at Chelsea on Saturday, it was all too much for an ill-used body but Robson will have none of it. "Gasza's not going to be brilliant in every game," he added.

Here was once a great player in superannation, playing mostly safe passes in his own half, no longer strong enough to carry the ball into more vital areas. Gascoigne's brain still works - a terrific long

pass almost set up Hamilton Ricard - but the legs no longer work for him.

Watching Gascoigne you are reminded of other artists who discovered that the force had left them. In his last match for Tottenham Hotspur more than 30 years ago Danny Blanchflower was utterly embarrassed by the ease with which Manchester United carried out Matt Busby's instructions to take the ball past him. The difference is that Gascoigne is seven years younger. Maybe Gascoigne has enough left to justify Middlesbrough's £3.5m investment - he will not come up against many teams with Chelsea's attacking verve - but the signs are not good and the question now is whether Middlesbrough have enough all-round strength to accommodate their most talented footballer's obvious physical limitations.

Comparisons with Gianfranco Zola were inevitable. The little Italian was everywhere, his appreciation of where to go for the ball often allowing Chelsea the luxury of



KEN JONES

Chelsea 2
Middlesbrough 0

three attackers while remaining secure in midfield.

Not that Middlesbrough had a great deal to offer beyond resolute defending. There was never enough auxiliary support and the 57th-minute substitution of Phil Stamp for Ricard's partner, Mikkel Beck, could have been made much earlier.

However, for all their domination in midfield and the confusion Brian Laudrup caused on the left side of Middlesbrough's defence, Chelsea did not break

through until a minute after the interval. Mark Schwarzer's alert and agile goalkeeping had something to do with this but so did Laudrup's delivery, his curling crosses invariably carrying too much pace.

This might have been the case with Laudrup's low, driven centre in the 46th minute but a breakdown of communication in the defence resulted in Gary Pallister's own goal. If Chelsea's second had a touch of real class it probably caused Robson to utter some harsh words in the dressing room. Nobody thought to close down Gustavo Poyet after a break in play and the outcome was a pass that Zola lobbed neatly over Schwarzer.

Gianluca Vialli thought Chelsea had given their best performance of the season but allowed no room for complacency. "You'll have to ask my players whether they are confident of being good enough to win the championship but nothing is possible unless they work for it."

"Thinking something is one

thing. Achieving it is another," he said.

Then there is Vialli's contentious rotational system. "Too much is made of it," he said. "I haven't made that many changes and you'll find that most of today's team have started in all our matches."

Not Tore Andre Flo whose two goals after coming on at Blackburn last week brought a notable victory. It was back to the bench for Flo on Saturday but only until half-time when he took over from Pierluigi Casagrande who has yet to score in the Premiership.

Some believe that Vialli's selections indicate a bad habit. On the other hand a bad habit is only a bad habit if it does not work. We shall see.

Goalkeeper: Poyet (46) 1-0; Zola (61) 2-0. Chelsea (4-4-2): De Gea; Fernandez, Dagnall, Laudrup (Dagnall, 55), Le Saux, Laudrup (Poyet, 75). Poyet, Di Matteo, Bagnall, Zola, Carragher (Pa. 4-3-3). Substitutes not used: Hinchliffe (90), Newton, Middlesbrough (3-5-2) Schwarzer; Cooper, Vickers, Pallister; Peto, Hutton, Gordon, Townsend, Gordon, Ricard, Beck (Stamp, 57). Substitutes not used: Moore, Gerrard, Middleton, Blackburn. Middlesbrough (4-4-2): Laudrup; Stamp, Ricard, Beck, Poyet, Beck, Cooper. Man of the match: Zola. Attendance: 34,511.

THIS SATURDAY THERE WERE 12 SCORE DRAWS:

CHARLTON	V COVENTRY	NORTHAMPTON	V MAN. CITY
TOTTENHAM	V LEEDS	PRESTON	V GILLINGHAM
GRIMSBY	V PORT VALE	CARLISLE	V EXETER
PORTSMOUTH	V SUNDERLAND	CHESTER	V CARDIFF
STOKEPORT	V WEST BROM	HALIFAX	V TORQUAY
BURNLEY	V MIDDLESBROUGH	CELTIC	V HEARTS

PAYOUTS FOR 8, 7 & 6 SCORE DRAWS.
OVER 16,000 WINNERS THIS WEEK.

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT TO EACH WINNER
8 SCORE DRAWS	159	£1,387.50
7 SCORE DRAWS	1,848	£32.50
6 SCORE DRAWS	14,884	£8

VALUE OF TICKETS ENTERED THIS WEEK: £1,856,726.
30% OF SALES CONTRIBUTED TO PRIZES.
THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTION TO GOOD CAUSES £248,000.



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Grab
Woul
all co
Villa c
Tynesie
Dalglish

Graham move would suit all concerned

HE WORE a bomber jacket, heavy boots and a skinhead haircut and he moved towards George Graham with a sense of purpose. Graham looked up at the stocky figure blocking his path and paused. The man ushered his son forward, an autograph was signed, a cheery word exchanged.

So much for running a gauntlet of hate. Graham may have red-and-white blood coursing through his veins but Spurs appear to be so desperate for a respectable side they do not care who produces it. Apart from a plaintive banner paraphrasing Pink Floyd with the appeal "Oh, Graham, leave our Spurs alone" the only abuse the ex-Arsenal manager received was the sporadic calls of "Judas" from the Leeds fans.

It could be that the Tottenham support are still getting their heads round the concept of having their "Great Satan" in Bill Nick's chair. David Platt, the stand-in manager, suggested they "don't know what to think" and if they were confused before the game they must have been bewildered after it. Graham's CV marks him out as a footballing Clint Eastwood: no frills efficiency and never mind the body count. But his team defended like the Marx Brothers, all slapstick and high farce.

In Graham's favour they were also given a powerful demonstration of how he can inspire players. This was one of Tottenham's most committed performances for a long time and much of that was due to the players knowing their probable future employer was looking on. Graham dealt better with the situation than his players judging by their uncharacteristic lapses in concentration. He said that Peter Ridsdale, Leeds' chairman, was still to give Alan Sugar permission to speak to him, but made it clear he wanted and expected to go. There was an indirect suggestion that Leeds was out of the spotlight but the capital's main



GLENN MOORE

Tottenham Hotspur 3
Leeds United 3

draw was "personal", the presence of his family and fiancée. He added, on a valedictory note: "Every club I've left, I've left in a good condition."

Ridsdale and Sugar are expected to speak after Leeds have returned from Tuesday's UEFA Cup tie against Marítimo in Madeira. An announcement is likely on Thursday confirming Graham as Tottenham's 14th post-war manager and Sugar's sixth in seven years.

The affair has been cited as evidence of the loss of loyalty in football but, in many ways, it is the perfect move for all parties. Graham's personal reasons are genuine, though the same situation applied when he signed a newly extended, and very lucrative, contract in the summer. It is also hard to imagine he is not attracted by the thought of putting one over an Arsenal board he still carries a grudge against - a feeling likely to have been exacerbated by the revelation that he will be the only person seriously punished by the "bung" inquiry.

For Tottenham the attraction is obvious. Apart from the early part of Gerry Francis' reign, and a brief period when Richard Gough was centre-half, they have not been defensively solid since Mike England retired. As the Arsenal back four continue to demonstrate Graham is a good organiser of defences - and prior to Saturday Leeds had

conceded one goal in six games. He will also trim Tottenham's overpaid, under-achieving playing staff, shipping out anyone not prepared to put team before individual. To judge from Tottenham's work-rate word has got round.

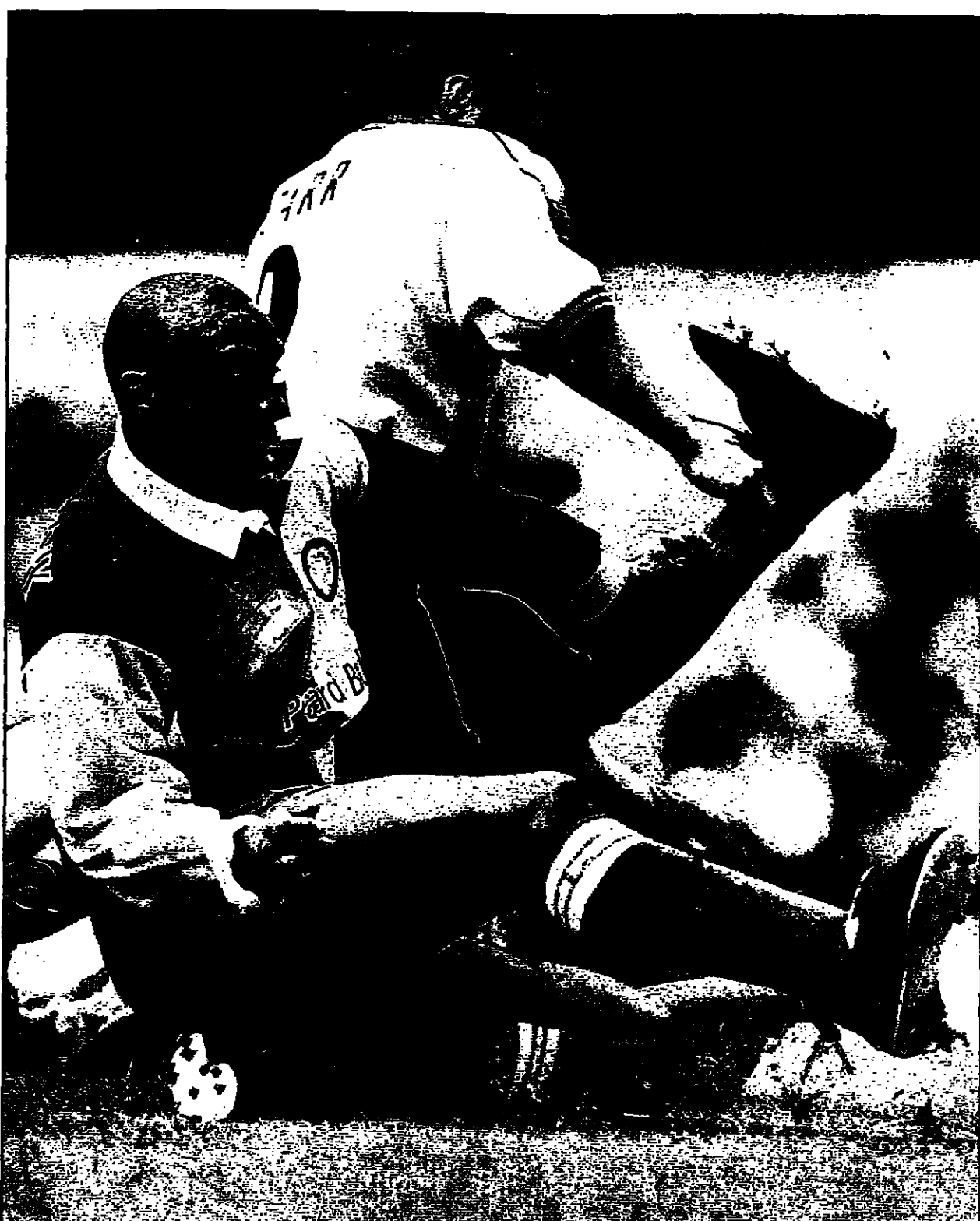
What he is not likely to do is give responsibility to "flat" players, those footballers who can open defences with something different. In many cases the inspiration of such players outstrips their perspiration but, with the long-ball game outdated, teams need such players, the Cantonas, the Bergkampes, to win titles.

That trait, combined with Graham's generally defensive outlook, is why his departure may be good for Leeds. They have gone as far as they can without investing in two or three "quality" players without whom they will beat average teams but only stop good ones. Graham recognises Leeds need strengthening, but has claimed that insufficient money is available - a claim Leeds dispute. This may be the reason for the Leeds support singing "stand up if you want the truth".

Either way, Graham's record suggests it is irrelevant. At Arsenal he bought 24 footballers but, apart from the bizarre double-signing of Glenn Helder and Chris Kwekwa in his final days, only Anders Limpar would be called an artistic player. Ian Wright, though a formidable goalscorer, is a grafter and a poacher not a creator.

At £2.5m Wright was his biggest buy at Highbury and only £2.25m David Hopkins has exceeded it of the 13 players (average fee: £1m) he has signed at Leeds. Value for money is the principle, but it means only Harry Kewell, an inherited youth player, provides fantasy, with Gunnar Halle's presence in midfield indicative of the team's prosaic nature.

Graham has changed to an extent. Leeds do not play long-ball football, they play swift



Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink slides in for Leeds' second goal at White Hart Lane on Saturday

Reuters

counter-attacking football to fast. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Clyde Winkard are an exciting combination whose purchases pay tribute to Graham. After Halle, unchallenged, headed in their first, the pair, quick of feet and thought, combined for further Leeds goals. The team he leaves is infinitely more valuable than the one he inherits.

Indeed, it will be a fair legacy. The youth scheme created by Howard Wilkinson is bearing

rich fruit, the first team are organised, spirited, hard to beat and dangerous. The support is dedicated and the potential good.

While Spurs last won the championship 37 years ago in a stunning first appearance this season, levelled then set up Sol Campbell's equaliser. "A thrilling game," said someone. "He'll soon put a stop to that," came the reply. Graham himself said: "We in a winning profession. You win first, then add the entertainment."

For the moment Spurs will accept success without style but

testament to Platt's influence, and now they matched it in spirit. Substitute Stefan Iversen, in a stunning first appearance this season, levelled then set up Sol Campbell's equaliser.

"A thrilling game," said someone. "He'll soon put a stop to that," came the reply. Graham himself said: "We in a winning profession. You win first, then add the entertainment."

For the moment Spurs will accept success without style but

if Graham can eventually produce both it may be his finest achievement.

Goals: Halle (3) 0-1; Vego (13) 1-1; Hasselbaink (26) 1-2; Winkard (60) 1-3; Iversen (70) 2-3; Campbell (90) 3-3. Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Beardsley, Carr (Caldwell), Wright, Campbell, Edwards; Fox, Anderson, Nelson, Clemence (Dominguez, 72); Armstrong, Ferdinand, Jensen, Gylfason. Leeds (4-4-2): Wright, Helder, Winkard, Ridsdale, Harris, Vego, Kewell, Gough, Kewell, Winkard (Wetherall, 72), Hasselbaink, Ridsdale. Not used: Haslam, Sharpe, Ulfrey, Robinson (90). Referee: P. Durkin (Portland). Goalscorers: Tottenham: Anderson, Leeds: Hasselbaink, Wetherall. Man of the match: Wetherall. Attendance: 35,535.

Elliott is left free to grab a point

BY PHIL SHAW

Leicester City 1
Wimbledon 1

TWO LATE headed goals enlivened a drab spectacle in the drizzle at Filbert Street yesterday. Wimbledon, having led through Robbie Earle with a quarter of an hour remaining, were within three minutes of the dizzy heights of second place in the Premiership when Matt Elliott equalised for Leicester.

Wimbledon, the perennial relegation favourites, will still enter October lying third, but their performance was more interesting with a side striving to insure against the drop rather than one aspiring to a European place. As the more enterprising of two modest outfits, Leicester fully deserved to take only their second point in five matches.

It was billed as Sky's "Super Sunday" game, but "superdull" or "stupifying" often seemed more appropriate adjectives until the final exchange of goals. Even the one moment of controversy, when the referee awarded nothing more than a free-kick against Kasey Keller after the Leicester keeper handled the ball outside the penalty box, was something of a storm in a satellite dish.

Keller was clearly out of his area when he gathered a long through-ball which was being half-heartedly chased down by Marcus Gayle. Using his common sense, Alan Wilkie deemed it no more than an error of judgement. The referee's officer of the Premier League, Philip Don, took a different view.

Don, who called upon managers to stop criticising officials last week, chose the half-time interval in the comfort of the outside broadcast studio to do exactly that himself. "In that situation there's no room for interpretation," he said. "Once the free-kick is given, he has to go. It's a clear denial of an obvious scoring opportunity."

By the strict letter of the law, Don may have been right. By any sensible standards, he was talking rubbish. What is more, there would probably have been a riot had Mr Wilkie banished Keller.

In truth, there were precious few scoring opportunities, obvious or otherwise. Elliott, having abandoned defensive duties in search of a winner, volleyed against the bar in the 74th minute, yet within 60 seconds Earle peeled off his marker to convert Alan Kimble's free-kick for his second goal of the season.

There were only three minutes left when Wimbledon, defending too deep, allowed Gerry Taggart to charge unopposed up their right flank. When his cross swung in, Elliott - "a big bugger when he goes up front," the Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear said eloquently - was mystifyingly free to score via Neil Sullivan's outstretched hand and a post.

Goals: Earle (75) 0-1; Elliott (87) 1-1. Leicester City (4-4-2): Keller, Elliott, Taggart, Ullasrao (Kinnear, 71), Savage, Lynam, Izzet, Guppy, Hestley, Cottee (Wilson, 77). Substitutes not used: Forster, Zaporoka, Arnesen (64). Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan, Cunningham, Perry, Thackery, Kinnear, Elliott, Roberts, Earle, Hogg, Eadie (Cul, 50). Referee: A. Wilkie (Chester-le-Street). Goalscorers: Wimbledon: Earle, Elliott. Attendance: 17,725. Man of the match: Strickland.

Villa defence looks in championship class

THE SIGHT of Paul Merson plumping up a five-point cushion at the top of the Premiership was not the only image which might have lulled a neutral into thinking they were at Highbury during one of George Graham's championship springs rather than Villa Park in John Gregory's endless summer.

While Merson ensured that an attritional struggle with second-placed Derby ended in a scoreline synonymous with the marble halls, Villa's defensive unit prompted equally valid comparisons with his former club's parsimonious traits. They have now conceded a solitary goal in 630 minutes' play accruing 17 points on the strength of just eight goals.

BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa 1
Derby County 0

That kind of record, as well as rewarding the Villa manager's efforts on the training ground, is the stuff of Graham's dreams.

Unlike his former mentor, Merson dismissed the idea of joining Spurs prior to his £6.75m move to Villa because it would have felt wrong after his long association with Arsenal. He remains close to Steve Bould, while his bond with Tony Adams extends beyond the fact that they are international colleagues.

So when he likened Villa's back three - Gareth South-

gate, Ugo Ehiogu and Gareth Barry, a 17-year-old with ice in his veins - to the Gunners' legendary quartet it amounted to more than the customary post-match platitudes.

"Arsenal's defence proved itself year in, year out, and the same guys are still doing the business 10 years on," Merson said. "We've got the potential to achieve the same sort of thing here. In fact, in four or five years I can see Villa dominating English football because there are some fantastic players coming through."

"The main ingredient of any title-winning team is the defence. George was all for grinding out results and when we last finished top we only lost once.

It wasn't always entertaining but it doesn't say: 'League champions (didn't play entertaining football)'."

"We've now let in one goal in seven games, which is phenomenal, but we've got to keep doing it. I can see it happening because our defence is so hard to score against. I should know - I played against them for Midlands through early this season."

Southgate is in imperious form, demonstrating leadership in an undramatic way. The powerful Ehiogu, who came as close to subduing Paulo Wanchope as anyone is likely to, would not be flattered if Glenn Hoddle restored him to the England squad.

Incredibly, Barry could join

them in the national set-up before long. Gregory's prodigy highlighted both his pace and poise by stopping Dean Sturridge with the tackle of the match. Sadly, he left the ground on crutches after damaging an Achilles tendon and is almost certainly out of Villa's UEFA Cup match in Norway tomorrow.

Mark Bosnich is also performing at peak level, though it was testament to his guardians that his best saves came from long-range shots. It is in the other goalmouth that Villa are conspicuously short of championship class. Despite Merson's clever link play the must-back-heel the ball more than anyone since Eric Cantona, there is no finisher ruthless

enough to call their autobiography *Deadly* as the chairman, Doug Ellis, has done.

Still, Gregory has a substantial war chest with which to improve their scoring rate. A week after a certain Leeds manager played down Villa's prospects, the Derby manager, Jim Smith, was asked whether he saw anything to suggest that their conquerors would be contenders. "Yes, they've got £20m to spend," he said, adding impishly: "Plus the proceeds from the book."

It is said that the fixture computer has been kind to Villa. However, it is precisely on successes such as Saturday's that championship challenges are built. In 1994-95, Blackburn lost

twice to Manchester United, and at Liverpool on the final day, yet still came first.

Gregory's side have actually met three of the four clubs in closest pursuit. By the time they take on Liverpool, United and Merson's first love in the space of three weeks starting in late November, their place in the race could well be fact rather than a deadly fantasy.

Goals: Merson (14) 1-0. Aston Villa (3-5-2): Bosnich, Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry (Gregory, 65); Charles, Hendrie, Taylor, Thompson (Draycott, 73); Wright, Merson, Joaozinho (Collins, 86). Substitutes not used: Vassell, Oakes (90). Derby County (1-2-3-2): Hould, Carlburton (Grant, 82), Papp, Lumsden, Kitchin (Gaines, 72); Carlsby, Bohannon, Powell, Delap, Wanchope, Southgate. Substitutes not used: Harper, Hunt, Fison (90). Referee: S. Dunn (Bristol). Goalscorers: Villa: Charles. Derby: Lumsden. Attendance: 20,007. Man of the match: Southgate.

Tyneside warming to Dalglish Jnr's talent

THERE WAS not just one notable individual missing from St James' Park on Saturday. Like Pierre van Hooftdonk, Nottingham Forest's professional absentee, Paul Dalglish's father was nowhere to be seen.

It was understandable, given the legal battle Kenny Dalglish is fighting against Newcastle United over the disputed events which led to his abrupt departure from managerial office five weeks ago. It is Dalglish the younger, however, who has been left in the most awkward situation at St James'.

He is attempting to establish his career with the club Dalglish Sr intends to take to court, under the man who snatched his father's job. It is not the most promising set of professional circumstances, a minefield Nigel Clough and Darren Ferguson never had to negotiate.

It may yet, of course, explode a Dalglish Jnr's face - a face that could be a mirror for his father's. For the time being, however, he is biding his time. Technically speaking, the walk-on part he was handed on

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 2
Nottingham Forest 0

Saturday was not his first break. After an injury-time appearance at Coventry and one start on loan at Bury last season, the 31 minutes he was given on the Premiership stage marked Dalglish's big-time debut.

He took his opportunity to play a supporting role too, if not a starring one. He fuffed the one chance that came his way, courtesy of Alan Shearer, shooting wide from the left edge of the Forest penalty area in the 86th minute. But then he showed an assurance of which his father would have been proud.

A minute later, with St James' still sighing on his behalf, he set Shearer away with a measured through-ball from the half-way line. It led Newcastle to their second goal, Alan Rogers felling Shearer, and the England captain scoring his second goal of the day - his seventh in four matches - from the penalty spot.

It also prompted chants of "Dalglish", which never rang round St James' with quite so much feeling in his father's time there. Paul Dalglish has the sympathetic support of the Toon Army as he strives to make his own footsteps in the football world.

Whether he will follow in the steps of his father remains to be seen. At 21, he has the same poised carriage, the same pivoting feet and the same ruddy-faced enthusiasm. As his new boss is quick to point out, however, he is far from any sort of finished article.

"He is young," Gullis said. "He wants to show himself. And we know what his qualities are. If he manages to have more vision around him maybe Paul is going to have a good future. It is all part of the learning process for him at the moment."

The new Newcastle are still in the learning process too. They have won four matches in a row now, a feat they never achieved under Kenny Dalglish, but they had luck on their side after Shearer's 10th-



Lookalike: Paul Dalglish

minute opener. Steve Stone hit the bar, Laurent Charvet cleared off the line and Shay Given weighed in with a string of first-class saves.

"We didn't get what we deserved," Dave Bassett said, with justification. "We'll probably play crap somewhere and win. That's the way it goes."

At least the Forest manager still had a job in football on Saturday night, unlike one of the men in the Dalglish household. Goalscorer 10 (1-0): Shearer pen 88 (2-0). Newcastle United (4-4-2): Gullis, Wilson (Baron, 25), Dalglish, Charvet, Pearce, Stone (87), Lee, Speed, Guss, Heslop (Dalglish, 50), Shearer. Substitutes not used: Albert, Paret (90). Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Bassett; Losh-John, Christie, Armstrong, Rogers; Stone, Gossie (Fleming, 84), Johnson, Bart-Williams (Gray, 63); Shipperley, Darviche (Hawwood, 74). Substitutes not used: Hiddle, Freeman, Crossley (94). Referee: D. Elbery (Tewkesbury). Goalscorers: Newcastle: Lee (20-10). Man of the match: Gullis. Attendance: 36,760.

Charlton's dangerous hopes

THE WISEST words of the afternoon came from the stadium announcer at Charlton's impressively refurbished Valley ground. "Take care, it's a long way to fall," he advised fans departing the vertiginous heights of the upper tier of the new West stand. This is advice that the two teams leaving the field far below would do well to heed after a 1-1 draw left both in the bottom seven of the Premiership with only one win apiece.

The red-and-white element of a sell-out crowd had high expectations for Charlton's dynamic performance at Anfield last week. "If we can play like that Liverpool, what can we do to Coventry?" was the question on the lips of the buoyant 20,000. The Sky Blues, in contrast,

BY PETER CONCHIE

Charlton Athletic 1
Coventry City 1

were still smarting from a 5-1 home defeat by Newcastle, described as a "freak result" by manager Gordon Strachan.

Both Strachan's Coventry and Alan Curbishley's Charlton have resourceful and talented players, but need to be sharper and more decisive in their all-round play. Eddie Youds struggled manfully with Dion Dublin, whose aim for the afternoon seemed to be to disorientate and dominate the ex-Everton centre-half Neil Redburn's running and powerful shooting made him a menace in the Charlton midfield.

A rather shapeless first half is probably best forgotten and Coventry took the lead when fatigue opened up space across the pitch in the second period. Roland Nilsson crossed a splendid diagonal ball into Gary Breen who, unchallenged, knocked the ball back to Dublin before Noel Whelan tucked the ball away from a tight angle.

Coventry's play then briefly assumed an adrenalin-fuelled fluency, with crisp first-time football from Whelan and Nilsson threatening Charlton down the right-hand side. But within five minutes, Charlton were level thanks to an unfortunate slip from defender Mark Edworthy - who lost his footing under pressure from substitute Keith Jones - which allowed

striker Andy Hunt to claim his 100th career goal.

"We had a couple of chances to go two or three up and then someone slips on their backside," was Strachan's nutshell summary of the afternoon.

"Let Me Entertain You", Robbie Williams sang out over the PA system before the game. While the teams rarely lived up to his promise, they did their best. One wonders, come May, if their best will be enough. Goals: Whelan (69) 1-0; Hunt (74) 1-1. Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): H.C. Powell, Rife, Woods, Mills; Mortimer, Redburn, Kinnear, Newson (Kinnear, 50); Hunt, Henderson (5 Jones, 86). Substitutes not used: Brown, Kinnear, Rye. Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman, Burrows (Gower, 15), Shaw, Breen, Nilsson, Shilton (Pett, 20), Scarsley, Biles, Cans, Dublin, Whelan. Substitutes not used: Ogilvie, Solomons, Williams. Referee: W. Taylor (Stockton-on-Tees). Attendance: 20,043. Man of the match: Redburn.

ON SATURDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 26/9/98. The winning numbers: 6, 16, 29, 36, 40. Bonus number: 49. Total Sales: £55,851,058. Prize Fund: £25,042,980 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	7	£1,480,160	£10,361,120
Match 5 plus bonus ball	25	£72,625	£1,815,625
Match 5	1,032	£1,539	£1,588,248
Match 4	51,772	£87	£4,488,724
Match 3	915,620	£10	£9,156,200
TOTALS	988,466		£25,012,167

Total Sales including Instant Win and Wednesday Draw: £105,247,564. Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £28,400,000. Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £26,833. © Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

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MONDAY REVIEW

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Labour's Earth Mother

Clare Short has had her problems. With Tony Blair. With the boy she gave up for adoption. Even with the people of Montserrat. But now, at 52, she says she's happier than ever. And it can't just be the power of Badesas

We've all come to think of Clare Short as such an un-silly, seriously impassioned, proper sort of person, that I wonder if she ever does anything stupidously frivolous as part of her regular routine like, say, queuing first thing on Tuesday for *Hello!*, or experimenting with Sun In, or buying yet another lipstick because you're sure this is the one you've been waiting all your life, which it is, until you realise it isn't.

She says no, these are not her particular weaknesses. "But I often do my red boxes in the bath." Do you put anything nice in your bath, Clare? "I used to have cheap bubbles, but they weren't really a bargain, because you have to use a lot, and keep buying bottles, so now I've got..." Yes? "Badesas." Badesas? "A bit extravagant, I know." Actually, Clare, Badesas is so hideously extravagant you can get it down Superdrug for £2.99! "Well, I once went to Rotterdam to stay with my friend and her mother gave me a bath with Badesas, and I just thought it was such a great luxury..."

So, no - not a flimsy or trifling woman. Indeed, I think if she and Alan Clark were, say, the last man and woman left on earth, he still might not make a play for her. This, of course, is intended as a compliment, and I'm sure she'll take it as such. She may even think there can be no greater one.

This is not, however, to say Clare isn't beautiful. Or sexy. She is both, I think. Although, at



THE
DEBORAH ROSS
INTERVIEW

the height of the tabloids' various vendettas against her (especially when she was campaigning against Page 3), she was described as "too ugly to rape" with hair "you could fry chips in". It's just absurdly untrue. She is, actually, tremendously fine to look at. She has excellent cheekbones. ("I used to think I was an Eskimo foundling.") She has slender, well-turned ankles. ("Do you think so? How nice, thank you.") She has a terrific bosom, one which, if it ever appeared on Page 3, would have to continue on page 4 and possibly 5.

Her grey, very un-Barbra Fallet, possibly viscose, shirt stretches with a great deal of effort across it. Her shirt is probably Richards or Wallis or Dorothy Perkins. "I dart in, try on a couple of things, then take or leave them. I don't have time for endless shopping." So, no personal shopping consultant at Selfridges, then, but do you have a New Labour personal trainer yet? "No. Although I understand Cherie has one," she replies mischievously, with a naughty little look in her Eskimo eyes.

Now Secretary of State for International Development, we meet at her department, which is housed on a floor of a nasty modern, high-rise in Victoria. She says the department will be moving out soon, although she isn't sure where they'll be going. I say she can have the spare room in my house, if she likes, in exchange for a bit of hoovering and childcare and the promise that I have free use of her Badesas, should I want it, although I'm not sure I do. She says that sounds a fine idea "although there are 900 of us". I say that's OK. My mother, being a Jewish mother, can come over to cook. My mother can't help cooking for 900, even when she's only making a TV supper for my dad.

Clare says that is just like her mother, Joan, with whom she still shares a house when she returns to her Birmingham constituency at weekends. "She produces great feasts. She can't help herself. She would give me six meals a day if she could, and spoils me endlessly."

Clare does, yes, give off this great charge of womanly warmth. Indeed, the first thing she does when we meet is tuck in the tag on my T-shirt which, being a sophisticated, together kind of person, seems to be sticking out the back. "Thanks mum," I say. "That's alright love," she says. You can't imagine Harriet Harman doing such a thing or, on the other side, Anne Widdecombe, whom Clare once saw "having her nails combed in Army & Navy. There is this sweet, vulnerable bit in her but, you know, she's in favour of capital punishment, and against abortion in all circumstances, even when someone's been RAPED..."

Clare is superbly motherly. She does, of course, have the one child, her son Toby, with whom she was recently reunited, having given him up for adoption in 1964. She wears a little



Will Webster

locket round her neck, which Toby gave her, and which contains a sweet, penny-sized photograph of him and her, smiling like mad. Toby, a city lawyer, was a Tory when they first rediscovered each other which, I say, must have made for some interesting discussions. Yes, she says, "but then he snuck off and joined the Labour party when I wasn't watching! I care about his values, of course, but would never have said to him: 'You must join the Labour party!' It wouldn't have been right. But then he went and did it on his own, which I thought was rather nice."

I suppose I should say at this point that I've always believed no one in their right mind would ever want to be a politician, that you have to be socially or emotionally crippled in some way, that you have to have something missing in your nature that desperately needs filling. I think this may be true of Clare, too, although in a rather different way to most. Her empty place was the space Toby would have filled had she been able to hang on to him. But she couldn't, and neither could she ever have any more children. A bad run in with an intrauterine device, just before she entered politics, saw to that. "I'm a victim of the coil, whose possible long term effects on fertility were not known when it was first introduced." So all her mothering instincts - that capacity mothers have to so passionately love, protect and care - had to go into something else, and that something else was politics. She could not shape her own child's life, but she could help shape the lives of others, and perhaps make them better. When I put this to her in my clumsy, sub-Anthony Clare way she, surprisingly, accepts there might be something in it. Giving up Toby, she says, "transformed my life. There was always this big gap that made me restless."

In short, what I'm saying is, that the Labour Party ultimately became her child, which in some ways is good, because it's meant she has always properly cared, unlike most politicians, who either tend to be in it for personal advancement, or at least get waylaid by it. Clare has, yes, seen this happen often. "I think personally, that most who enter politics start off with a sense of wanting to make the world a better place, but quite

a lot of that gets inverted by the process. By becoming an important person, they end up confusing their advancement with the advancement of the things they used to believe in. Hubris is, certainly, the disease of politics. The health and safety commission should send everyone a warning!" But in other ways it's not so good, because when a child starts going off in a direction you don't want it to go into, or won't listen, or gets mixed up with bad company, it can hurt quite a lot. New Labour has hurt Claire quite a lot, I think. Although she does appear to largely be coming round to what it's now grown into.

When she was removed, pre-election, from Transport, after a chronicle of outspokenness (a cavalier remark on cannabis legalisation, a statement that people "like me" could afford to pay more tax, the suggestion that the British citizens of Montserrat "will be asking for golden elephants next") she gave a frank interview in the *New Statesman* criticising "the people in the dark" behind Tony Blair, and warning: "These people are making a terrible error. They think that Labour is unelectable, so they want to get something else elected..."

Now, though, she says: "If you are a political party that seeks election, there is no point in being right if you can't win." But, I say, if a party changes itself just to win, then its betraying itself and its roots, and that's wrong. She says: "I think, when Labour kept losing, then it was betraying itself." She adds: "OK, I did worry that, with some of the reforms, we were throwing the baby out with the bath water. But now, I'm more and more content we haven't. This government hasn't been perfect. There have been mistakes. There have been some little style things I didn't like. But, as I said to Tony after the thing in the rose garden where he launched the annual report - which was a bit glossy, and the rose garden was a bit whitehousey - but as I said to him: 'Tony, I think this government isn't too bad.' And he said: 'Coming from you, Clare, that is wonderful!'"

Has Clare genuinely become reconciled to New Labour? Mostly, I think, although she can't resist the odd delicious swipe every now

and then. Later, when we come to discuss Derek Draper, I say what I can not understand is how someone like him, who seems no more than a vain, glibby yuppie, could have been taken so seriously in the highest places. She says: "Well, he was only taken seriously in one high place, wasn't he?"

Although she claims not to be especially attracted to power, she does like being in power. "We used to sit around in pubs saying the world bank should do this and that, and now I go to the world bank, and say shouldn't we be doing this?" Clare, the second of seven children, was brought up in Birmingham, in a naturally political household. Her father, Frank, was a teacher and Irish republican who believed that Ireland should never have been partitioned. She grew up with this sense that "the British Empire was not a good thing."

She might have been a spectacularly bossy child: "I was 10 when Suez happened, and my dad felt strongly about it, so when the girls at school went about saying: 'We'll throw Nasser in the Suez Canal', I went about telling them they were quite wrong, and the Egyptians were entitled to have their canal."

And she remains spectacularly bossy, it would seem. Although brought up a devout Catholic, she fell out with the religious side of it because she couldn't accept its teachings on contraception. Still, she remains, she says, an ethnic Catholic, in that she feels very Catholic. I say I'm an ethnic Jew in much the same way. She asks if I am bringing up my young son to feel Jewish. I say his father is not one of The Chosen, so it's a bit tricky. The rest of the conversation goes something like this:

"Have you ever taken him to synagogue?"
"Um...no."
"But you must. If I was your son, I would want you to take me."
"Well I..."

"It is part of him. We have synagogues in my constituency. I went to one the other week. The texts! Shouldn't you be giving your son a bit of that? Bring him to Birmingham. I'll take him."

Continued on page 8

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JAVIGO 150

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PAUL RICHARDS
London W6

Far from hiding my radical socialist convictions, I have campaigned openly on them, and if I am elected to the NEC it will be because they are shared by large numbers of party members.

LIZ DAVIES
London N1

CHARLES TURPIN
Luxembourg

The first in a series of photographs of Cambridge before the students return: an early morning view of Clare Bridge. Cambridge's other noteworthy bridges include the Bridge of Sighs at St John's College and the Mathematical Bridge at Queens' College

that first-past-the-post (FPTP) is a rotten system. This is not only because it hurts us (we have learnt how to turn it to our advantage and it is now hurting the Tories too), but because it forces people to vote against what they do not want, rather than in favour of what they do want; and because it forces the

BILL SMITH
Nottingham

Sir: I share Max Beran's concern at the lack of choice we will have in next year's European elections

The principles of proportionality and voter choice need not conflict. If the Government had chosen the single transferable vote, or even an open list system, for the European elections then both objectives could have been achieved. It is the Government, and not PR, which we must blame

'Right-wing' Alpha
Sir: The Rev David Broad (letter, 24 September) describes the Alpha course as embracing a "dangerous, right-wing success theology", not representative of Anglican teaching. I do not know where David gets his information

time-expired and probably racist.
I have two cats and a house in France which I visit for ten weeks every year. I pay someone to look after them while I am away and I shall never take them with me.

JOSIE EDWARDS
London, N10

I am delighted that Sir Ian McKellen is working in Leeds, but we do have real people where we live too. But I am more worried that Tom Sutcliffe (letter, 25 September) thinks we are dead.
SAM WALTERS
Director
Orange Tree Theatre
Richmond,
Surrey

Almost 40 per cent of young people in prison have been through the "care" system, the other 60 per cent have probably been neglected and abused elsewhere. We should be doing all in our power to help these unfortunate youngsters, not punishing them for being failed by us.

RUTH COOKLIN
London N20

(Saturday Essay, 26 September) claims that no one can hum a little music by Arthur Schnittke. I guess this is true. If, however, he is referring to the late Alfred Schnittke, then I have to correct him, as I can and frequently do hum his music.

**happens when a left-handed
gunman meets a right-handed
man. One answer is to be found
in the delightfully gruesome
story of Ehud and Eglon in the
Book of Judges, chapter 3.
J MICHAEL SHARMAN
Rufforth,
North Yorkshire**

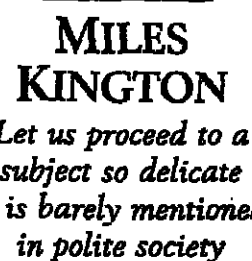
I am not sure what he means by "right-wing success theology" – perhaps he isn't either: but he must be challenged to explain these remarks, and either justify or withdraw them.

PAUL DUELL
Southampton, Hampshire

the "care" system, the other 60 per cent have probably been neglected and abused elsewhere. We should be doing all in our power to help these unfortunate youngsters, not punishing them for being failed by us.

RUTH COOKLIN
London N20

What matters is that I have come up with a bona fide - and in my case absolutely genuine - reason for having strangely mottled trousers. Or, I suppose, ladies, a



hold all the irremovable oil comes off, and then you wash the lot off, and all you have left on your hands

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The three tests for the Blair government

IT IS TEMPTING to suggest that the next year will define Tony Blair's government, as the Prime Minister and his party face up to challenges on the economy, Europe and the constitution. That temptation should be resisted. We thought it would become clear what kind of animal New Labour was once it assumed office: yet its inner nature remains elusive. If we have learnt one thing about Mr Blair it is that he avoids definition, not out of shyness but on principle. The refusal to be pinned down is the core of his strategy.

Mr Blair promised he would be "radical" and that, at least, he has turned out to be, although not in the way that was expected. He is radical in the sense that he has revolutionised the business of responding to and managing public opinion, turning democratic leadership into a continuous marketing and public relations exercise. The cost of this approach has been a loss of authenticity. We are used to politicians tailoring their message to what the voters want to hear, but when we suspect that "what the voters want to hear" is the starting-point of Mr Blair's message, it begins to sound hollow, and the lack of authenticity begins to become a liability, even in marketing terms.

So it was good to see a flash of the real Blair in our interview with him last week. What remains attractive about him is his refreshing pragmatism and his lack of attachment to ideology.

His intention to fight the next election promising lower rates of personal taxation - especially for lower-income families - is a genuine and welcome "third way" between Tory and Labour orthodoxies. It is to his credit that he fails to conceal his contempt for some of the sentimental mush that passes for Labour's "traditional values" - and it is depressing that the party is still so immature that it thinks that electing Liz Davies to the National Executive will act as a constructive influence on government.

But then the doubts creep back in: it must be asked whether it is sustainable for the Prime Minister to run against his party so much of the time. Attacking Old Labour may have been fine as an opposition tactic to persuade the electorate that he is New, but it is unwise if he wants to create a body of support that will act as ambassadors for his government, because the danger of the mid-term is that dissent in the party could act as a focus for worries among the wider public.

The first challenge for the next year is the economy.



The problem is not so much the substance of economic policy but the style. One of the few broad-brush promises that will have lodged in the minds of even the least attentive voters is the pledge to end the cycle of boom and bust. Never mind the small print: the Prime Minister last week acknowledged that he could not abolish

the business cycle - he and Gordon Brown are simply trying to "reduce its amplitude". They have created an expectation that the economy will tick along in fourth gear for ever, and the voters will punish them when the Bank of England is forced to strain the engine for a bumpier ride.

The second, related, challenge is that of the euro, which will be launched in three months' time. That event will have profound effects on our national psychology, not to mention the pre-eminence of London as a financial centre. It is time for Mr Blair to raise the tempo and begin to make the case for joining, rather than saying he sees no obstacle in principle if others make the case for him.

The third challenge is that of constitutional reform: as Roy Jenkins comes up with his compromise between the irresistible force of change and the immovable object of the voting system; as the House of Lords finally arrives in the 20th century; and as Scotland begins to break away from England. On electoral reform, Mr Blair is right to be cautious: he should encourage real pluralism at all levels of government. That means moving quickly to a legitimate method of selection for the Upper House: it should be half elected and half appointed by an independent body. And it means letting go in Scotland, allowing the people to decide their future. As for the way we elect MPs, the case for change is overwhelming: the case for any particular form of change has not yet been made, and needs to fit with changes to the Lords and to the government of the different parts of the United Kingdom.

There is, though, much more to pluralism than this. The receding of a Freedom of Information Act is disappointing. The gentleness with which Rupert Murdoch's monopolistic media tendencies have been treated is depressing. The excessive prescription in education policy should give us pause.

Performance on the economy, Europe and the fabric of our democracy would matter less if other parts of Mr Blair's extravagant rhetoric had not already crumbled on contact with reality. The notion that his administration would rank as one of the great reforming governments of the century on the basis of its plans for transforming the welfare state has vanished like a half-recalled dream in the morning.

However, if Mr Blair can establish himself as economically competent, internationally pro-European and politically pluralist, that would be a great achievement for his first term. Of these, the most difficult and unconvincing, on the evidence so far, is pluralism. We are not persuaded that New Labour revels in the idea of letting a thousand flowers bloom and a thousand voices speak.

For Labour and the country, there really is no alternative

IF TONY Blair feels even slightly nervous, he is making an outstanding job of concealing it. In his interview with *The Independent* on Friday, he could hardly have been more relaxed, focussed, confident, or New Labour. Whenever you think that Mr Blair might be about to make a concession to comfortable, conventional Labour wisdom, he does just the opposite. Ask him, for instance, whether he agrees that taxes may have to go up in order to meet the need for better public services, and he says that he is hoping further to reduce them.

In a less strategic Prime Minister this behaviour might seem positively reckless. On the face of it, this conference, despite the changes which will rob it of much of its old time theatricals, promises to be the tensesst Mr Blair has faced since becoming leader. This is not merely because no one quite knows how the new structure will work. Not only are even rank-and-file loyalists worried about jobs and the high level of interest rates; now the outcome of that deeply symbolic annual event, the elections to the constituency section of the National Executive Committee have apparently delivered four seats for left-wing critics, and only two to Blairite loyalists.

Not only does this amount to a public kick at Mr Blair from his own party; (though a limited one given his supremacy over the rest of the NEC) it also casts doubt on the once widespread assumption that the more you let members have a say, the more they will be inclined to back the leadership against its critics on the left. It also casts doubt on the constant gibes about Mr Blair's alleged control-freakery, from the Scottish parliament

to Wednesday's NEC results, most of his pressure points, such as they are, stem from being more, not less, democratic than his predecessors.

So as the pound soars, and the Prime Minister warns that "There is No Alternative", are we beginning to see, in embryo form, the tensions over economic policy and the ideological divisions which dogged, in their first two years, the Labour governments elected in both 1964 and 1974 - and which, albeit in very different ways, blew them fatally off course?

The answer - disappointingly for those who cannot enter the Winter Gardens without hoping to see a Chancellor bayed at by enraged delegates - is a resounding "No".

Consider the National Executive elections first. You might think that Drapergate was history. But it is quite a big part of what has come back to bite the leadership. Certainly the most ultra left of the NEC candidates, Liz Davies, fought as a member of the Grassroots Alliance on a prospectus which concealed her true political identity. The decision of *The Guardian*, in its capacity as the Labour Party's house journal, to back the dissidents did not help. Nor did the belated and pretty hamfisted attempt to promote a rival slate from headquarters.

One or two of the strongly pro-leadership candidates would almost certainly have done better without it. But Derek Draper has probably played as big a part as anyone in ensuring the left-wing victories which will be announced this week. His foolishly boastful taunt that there were only 17 people who counted in the government annoyed party members; much more, for example, than the Ecclestone af-



DONALD MACINTYRE

When Mr Blair uses this mantra, he is being more literally correct than Mrs Thatcher was 15 years ago

fair. Party members understand the need to attract funding, however messy. What they deeply dislike is, first, that greedy individuals can pocket large sums just because they have good connections in the government; and second, the notion that a Labour country is run by a clique of mainly unelected individuals rather than the elected MPs and Ministers they worked to see in power.

In future, loyalists should run an earlier, and more transparent, campaign from the bottom up. But the other lesson is clear: To cut - or at the very least formalise - the links between ex-Labour lobbyists and their old muckers in the government; and to curb the euphoric arrogance prevalent among a few of the government's unelected advisers.

This is something several light years short of an ideological crisis. The government is about to have its mettle

tested on several fronts: ministers, particularly these ministers, love to give the impression that they have fingertip control; in fact they are peering as fearfully as any of us into a murky future trying to discern the shape of events over which they have barely any. Will the bulk that is the Japanese economy be refloated? Will the US Federal Reserve Bank help to trigger a world recovery? Will the Euro fly?

All this when the strains already imposed by the Bank of England's war against inflation have already caused anxiety in boardrooms as well as unions; among the Cabinet as well in local Labour ward meetings. Tony Blair told us on Friday that it was a "myth" that the Bank did not take into account the real economy as well as the inflation forecasts.

That has not stopped Peter Mandelson, the new Trade and Industry Secretary from arranging a meeting with Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, for an exchange of views on what is happening in the wider economy. But that is not quite the point. The fact is that when Mr Blair uses the TINA mantra he is actually being more literally accurate than Margaret Thatcher was when she coined the phrase more than 15 years ago.

For a start, when Mrs Thatcher used the phrase, a sizeable and quite weighty minority in her Cabinet profoundly disagreed with her. At the recent Chequers "awayday" for the Cabinet it was Clare Short, no less, who commented that she could never remember the party or the Cabinet itself being so ideologically united.

On the central and boldest economic stroke the government has

made - making the Bank independent, a retreat is out of the question. Can anyone in the Labour Party imagine what life would be like if politicians were now taking the blame for higher interest rates?

One of the most eloquent summaries of Labour's achievements so far comes from a recent lecture by Chris Mullin, not exactly a leadership stooge: welfare to work, real term increases of around five per cent in health and education, national minimum wage, the Crime and Disorder Bill, prospect of peace in Northern Ireland, land-mine ban - not a bad centre-left record. The government is also largely keeping its promises which is why delaying a PR referendum may be more damaging than some senior Party figures think.

None of this means that life is going to be easy over the coming year. The press, for example, may have been largely neutralised, compared with their counterparts in earlier Labour administrations. But they are not, and perhaps never will be, the cheerleaders for Mr Blair as they were for Mrs Thatcher, carrying her through her worst period, and staying "on message" whatever the temptations not to. Some in the party may indeed be tempted to lose their nerve if the government starts a serious slump in the polls. But I do not think the Prime Minister will be hurled himself off the Big One when the NEC election results are read out on Wednesday.

The Rt Hon Jack Straw, Ken Livingstone MP, Trevor Phillips and Anne McElroy will debate "What's the Big Idea?" tonight at the Labour Conference fringe.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm not really interested in whether Paddy Ashdown survives or not. I'm talking about Labour Party policy."

John Prescott, asked about his opposition to electoral reform

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"No real English gentleman, in his secret soul, was ever sorry for the death of a political economist."

Walter Bagehot, English constitutional writer

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HE HAS never failed a challenge. Never failed the British people. Never let us down. This is not the time to start. There are huge problems ahead, and they have to be beaten if this country is to go into the next century with hope. Tony Blair cannot do it on his own. But we cannot do it without him. *Sunday Mirror*

THE EXPERIENCE of the last five years of Tory rule - tax rises, Black Wednesday, and broken promises - showed how

ruthlessly the public punishes economic incompetence. It is too early to convict Mr Blair of this charge. But if he wishes to be acquitted, he must realise that, for a Prime Minister, economic literacy is as important as prodigious charm. Where inflation and taxation are concerned, it is impossible to be all things to all men. *The Sunday Telegraph*

THIS WEEK the Prime Minister is expected to tell his party conference that child benefit

will be taxed. If this benefit is now to be taxed, where will the burden fall? Not on the very wealthy, to whom child benefit is an irrelevance anyway. Nor on the feckless who pay no tax.

Those who will suffer will be people on modest salaries who have been increasingly drawn into the Treasury's net by the falling real value of tax thresholds. And they, as Mr Blair

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Opinions on the Government's record as its conference begins



should know only too well, are overwhelmingly the people who voted him into office. *The Mail on Sunday*

AS GOVERNMENTS go, it has been a good opening 18 months. Something to be proud of. But factors outside party control pose a grave threat as linked economies crash around the world, and high interest rates put the knife into manufacturing and exporting industries. And they spell out a clear message: the last half of New

Labour's first term of office will be the real testing time. *News of the World*

THE QUESTION remains: what is New Labour for? We know that Mr Blair performed a brilliant feat when he took over, and transformed his party, making it electable once more. But vacuous rhetoric about communitarianism or the Third Way only heightens suspicions that Blairism is a kinder, gentler form of Thatcherism. *The Independent on Sunday*

PANDORA

LANCASHIRE POLICE have produced a most helpful pamphlet for all those attending this week's Labour Party conference in Blackpool. Among the useful tips is "Don't volunteer to strangers too much personal information about yourself or your security which could help in planning a crime." Could this have been aimed at thwarting Liz Davies and her fellow Grassroots Alliance candidates for the NEC - who started planning their iniquitous assault on the Blairite citadel months ago - from making too many new friends at Conference?

AND WHAT about this tip: "If you must carry any mobile telephones, pager or cassette recorders to the Winter Gardens, you should disclose them to security staff each time you reach a checkpoint." Pandora salutes whatever young Policy Unit genius devised this excellent way of checking to ensure that every party stalwart is always pager-equipped, 100 per cent on-message.

REMEMBER WHEN it was just leaves stopping the trains from running on time? Now Virgin Trains has worrying news for its passengers: on track investment is disrupting regular services two days a week. Under the heading "investing for the future" the Virgin entry in the new "Comprehensive" High Speed Train and Sleeper Services guide to Great Britain says, "Our colleagues in Railtrack are carrying out much renewal work on the track, signalling and structures to ensure a safe and smooth railway." Hence the lack of any listings for Virgin train services on Saturday and Sunday until May 1999. Could this possibly explain yesterday's report that Frank Dobson and other delegates were late due to Virgin Train delays?

OF ALL the obscenities that have appeared in the media as a result of the Zippertgate scandal, Pandora finds yesterday's comments by President Clinton's former strategist, Dick Morris, the most stomach turning. Mr Morris, you may recall, had to resign when it was revealed that he talked to Mr Clinton while partaking of inappropriate pleasures with a prostitute. When Monica Lewinsky surfaced, Mr Clinton rang Mr Morris immediately and asked for advice. Mr Morris conducted a rapid poll and, as a result, advised the President that

popularity polls indicated he should not admit to any sexual affair. Yesterday Mr Morris wrote in a New York newspaper that the President's "false friends will help him continue to avoid facing the reality of who he really is... there is nobody around Clinton to tell him the truth, to face down his anger, to contradict his denials, and to make him face his worse half without blinking or turning aside." Pandora wonders how Bill's "true friend" Mr Morris faces himself in the mirror.

HAVE BRITISH supermodels become too big for their Manolo Blahnik boots? Following local criticism of Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell (pictured) for falling to turn up this weekend on British Fashion Week catwalks, a nasty attack on "imperial" Naomi appeared in a New York tabloid on Sunday. However, the barbs should assuage the British fashion industry's hurt feelings for they explain why Naomi missed Fashion Week. She's been acting on location in Toronto for a film called *Passion of Love*. However, according to the *New York Post*, her prima donna behaviour has alienated both the film crew and her Toronto hotel's staff. Her worst sin, it seems, was smoking in non-smoking areas! The poor girl is lucky she wasn't immediately imprisoned. Come home, Naomi, all is forgiven.

WHILE ON the subject of North American anti-smoking habits, outlandish TV racing pundit John McCrick had something puzzling to say last week. Dressed in a fez-like hat and purple velvet suit, McCrick was launching a stable of books for Macmillan/Channel Four at London's Bistrot 2 restaurant. His ultimate accessory consisted of an absurdly large cigar, which caused Pandora to ask what he thought the odds were on President Clinton's survival. "He'll make it," Mr McCrick pronounced. "He's been a great boon to us cigar smokers, both over here and over there." Why that's the case eludes Pandora. One clue from Mr McCrick: "The only problem is that over in the States they are so fascist they won't let you smoke them in most places." Has non-inhaling Mr Clinton been such a boon because he has shown Americans how best to enjoy a cigar when you cannot actually smoke it?



Labour renege on open government



JOHN PILGER

The Blair government is a bastion of secrecy, no different, if not more sinister, than the Tories

NEW LABOUR'S "unbreakable" promise to the British people was open government. This, said Tony Blair in 1996, would be an antidote to the public's "disaffection from politics". There was to be a Freedom of Information Act, which, he said, "is not some isolated constitutional reform", but "a change that is absolutely fundamental to how we see politics developing in this country over the next few years".

The very opposite has happened. Behind a facade of slogan and public relations posturing, the Blair government has become a bastion of secrecy, no different, if not more sinister, than the Tories.

The recent anti-terrorism legislation is a case in point. Blair and Home Secretary Jack Straw planned this repressive legislation long before the Omagh bomb. The Government, wrote Straw in August 1997, "would give to courts jurisdiction over acts of conspiracy performed in this country in respect of criminal acts committed abroad".

This is now the law, and it means the end of the much-vaunted British "tradition" of giving refuge to exiled political dissidents - Iraqi democrats can now be sent back to the clutches of Saddam Hussein.

The disparity between Blair's words and deeds on issues of liberty and openness has a history. As

opposition leader, he played an important part in seeing through the Criminal Justice Bill, arguably the most repressive legislation ever put forward in modern Britain. By tabling amendments to the bill, he conceded its principle of limiting freedom of movement, association and dissent.

The arms trade is the most vivid illustration. Since taking office, the Blair government has secretly approved more than 150 arms shipments, to some of the most vicious regimes, including the Suharto military dictatorship in Indonesia,

described by Amnesty as "casual with mass murder" - at the same time as Robin Cook was announcing his "foreign policy with an ethical dimension." Like the Tories, New Labour has suppressed all the details.

When Ann Clwyd MP asked the Defence Minister, John Speller, to "publish the minutes of meetings and other documents" relating to the Government's contacts with Procurement Service International, the supplier of "riot control" vehicles, used by Suharto to crush dissent, Speller's reply could have been written by his Tory predecessor. He said: "Details cannot be released due to their commercial confidentiality - I am withholding the information requested..."

When Clwyd asked the trade minister which British banks were funding the sales to Indonesia with millions of pounds of government credit, she was told that getting the information would incur "disproportionate costs" - exactly what the Tories used to say.

Of course, both the arms' trade, and the secrecy by which it prospers, is something of a Labour tradition. In his recent, pathbreaking history, *The Great Deception* (Pinto Press), the historian Mark Curtis illuminated the common cause between Labour and Tory foreign policies,

which in serving "British interests", have played a significant part in many of the century's worst abuses of human rights. It was, after all, Old Labourite Denis Healey, who, as defence secretary in 1966, zealously set up the Defence Sales Organisation "to ensure that this country does not fail to secure its rightful share of this valuable market." This included weapons that kill, maim, and distort national priorities: a "market" in which Britain is now second only to the United States.

New Labour supporters hoped a Freedom of Information Act would be the answer to those who suspected that a new Tory party was in power run by spin doctors. One of the new government's first "exemptions" to the FOI proposals, was the secret deals of the new privatised utilities and their fat cats. Last December, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, stripped the FOI White Paper of its centrepiece proposals, that would bring the police and the immigration bureaucracy within the scope of the bill.

There is a logic, of course. New Labour, we are learning fast, has much to hide - not only in its arming of monstrous regimes, and its secret deals with corporate dictators like Rupert Murdoch, but in its acquiescence to the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, perhaps

the most effective anti-democratic weapon ever devised. Currently being pursued under diplomatic cover, the MAI will allow the huge, mostly Western, multinational companies, that already control most of the world's resources and trade, to override the rights of elected governments to protect their people against exploitative labour conditions and the destruction of the environment.

In Britain, public health will be at risk, as national and local authorities risk being sued if they try to promote safety at work, a clean transport policy or food standards.

In 1996, Peter Mandelson highlighted Britain's "strengths" as its multinational corporations, as the "aerospace" industry (arms) and "the pre-eminence of the City of London". Unlike the warring Tories, New Labour has become the trusted political wing of the City and an impeccable branch manager of American imperial economics for the planet, which suppresses the very market freedoms used to justify them, while denying any recognition of their current consequences.

Secrecy is vital to this stance. "It may be," said Mandelson, last March, "that the era of pure representative democracy is slowly coming to an end."

When it happens, will we know?

The financial virus can only be kept off-shore for so long



ANDREAS

WHITTAM SMITH
Will this next recession be like its predecessors since 1945 or will it resemble the pre-war model?

CONTAGION AND DEFLATION: these are the two words which will be on the lips of finance ministers, central bankers and commercial bankers as they congregate in Washington tomorrow for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. Contagion, because financial panic is akin to a viral disease, easy to pick up, difficult to shake off. Deflation, because in some parts of the world, consumer prices are beginning to decline, a rare phenomenon which is just as dangerous as inflation.

This is what contagion means in practice: your high-street bank, conducting business in many parts of the world, has lost a sizeable amount of money in lending to, say, an Asian business with interests in Indonesia. Nothing to do with you, a small British business, trading locally, except that when you go to renew your overdraft facility, you find, to your surprise, that the negotiation is much more difficult than you expected. Your banker is uptight because his or her bosses are scared.

Contagion is fear, the emotion which, with its opposite, greed, causes financial markets to oscillate wildly and explains why the business cycle, boom followed by bust and then boom again, can never be banished. "Contagion" hasn't been used in this sense in financial markets before, although financial panics have been a regular occurrence since money was invented. But the word is appropriate this time because of the unusually virulent nature of the 1998 panic. This one has new characteristics. Globalisation has meant that banks and financial institutions have been able to put money into countries which used to be

closed to Western investors - like Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Russia itself, Turkey, Chile. As a result, the shocks originally generated by Thailand's devaluation, and then by Russia's default, have shaken every financial market in the world.

Moreover, many of these professional investors have relied more heavily than ever upon borrowed capital. So called hedge funds - George Soros' stamping ground - often borrow five or six times their investors' funds.

It is said, for instance, that a single hedge fund had a position in the Thai currency equivalent to a fifth of the country's reserves. With such high levels of borrowing, relatively small mistakes can wipe out a fund's capital. This is precisely what happened in New York last week when the Federal Reserve bank had to organise a \$3.5bn bail-out of one of the largest US hedge funds, the mislabeled Long-Term Capital

Management. Every one of the 11 main lenders to Long-Term Capital, ranging from Goldman Sachs to Barclays and Deutsche Bank, are major players in the London market. From Britain's point of view, their business with Long-Term Capital would be classified as "off-shore" but you cannot keep a virus off-shore for long.

Let there be no wishful thinking. Financial panics inevitably cause recession. Lenders become cautious where they are not actually frightened. Credit is restricted. As a consequence economic activity is bound to shrink. However, now there is a new question to ask. Will this next recession be like its predecessors since 1945? Unemployment rises significantly while inflation is subdued but not eliminated.

Or will it more closely resemble the pre-war model, when rising unemployment is accompanied by falling consumer prices, as last happened during the Thirties?

Look at the evidence. The oil price is spectacularly weak. Other commodity prices are generally at 20-year lows. Even in the United Kingdom, where inflation is still present, the rise in factory prices is the slowest for 30 years.

In China, deflation has actually begun; consumer prices in August were 3.3 per cent below their level 12 months earlier.

The Chinese Government is considering setting price floors for a variety of products. Japan is on the brink of deflation; France and Germany are nearly there with current inflation rates of one per cent. The forthcoming recession, therefore, could tip a number of countries into a deflationary experience.



In China deflation has begun, with falls in consumer prices

This would not be nice. In a regime of falling prices, consumers think it wise to defer purchases for as long as possible in order to buy more cheaply. This natural reaction itself makes it less likely that business activity will revive and tends to cause prices to fall even more quickly. Moreover, anybody with interest to pay on debts and/or capital repayments to make would find the task had become much more expensive in real terms. This could add to the financial strains in the system.

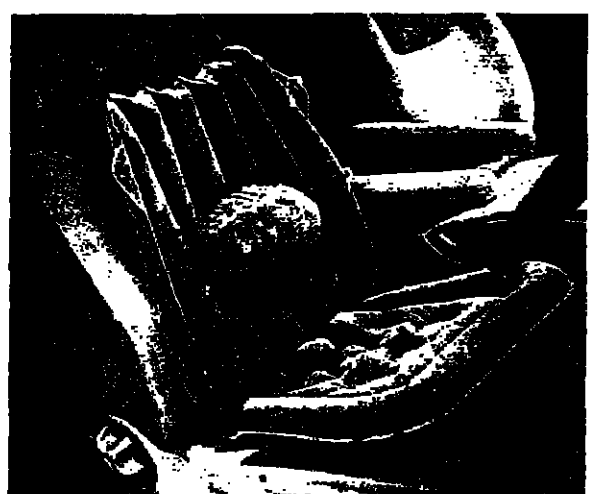
In addition, governments would have lost the use of one of the main instruments for reviving confidence and activity - cutting interest rates. Interest rates cannot be set below zero. And in deflationary times, any positive rate of interest might begin to seem like a burden.

Before it is too late, can governments devise policies to counter the deflationary risk? The few commentators who have taken seriously the possibility of deflation, such as Roger Bootle in his excellent book *The Death of Inflation* (published by Nicholas Brealey), have doubted

whether governments would act quickly enough, so absorbed has the economic establishment been for 50 years in fighting inflation, always expecting prices to start rising again whenever they have been subdued.

However, recent statements have shown recognition of the danger. The seven leading industrial powers said on 14 September that inflation was low or falling in many parts of the world and "the balance of risks in the world economy has shifted". Subsequently, the most important central banker, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, observed that the deepening economic crisis may slow the American economy by "more than sufficient to hold inflation in check". Decoded, these statements mean, "We see the problem". The IMF and World Bank meetings are timely.

Watch out for two things. Are governments prepared to cut interest rates while such action is still efficacious? And will countries with too much debt, such as Italy, Belgium, Sweden and Canada, show resolution in reducing its level?

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02084

Learning to heal wounds of the past

SINCE 1996, dozens of mass graves have been exhumed on the initiative of local communities through Guatemala. In a country where over 50,000 individuals were "disappeared", for many people - both Mayans and Ladinos - exhumations hold out the hope of finding a body to mourn.

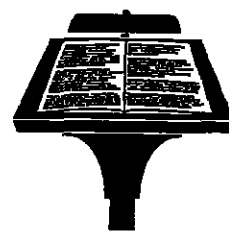
Teams of forensic scientists, linked to NGOs and the Catholic Church, have worked to identify victims, and provide details of the massacres which took place in the early Eighties. These exhumations are an integral part of the truth-telling process in Guatemala. TRC, constitute both an acknowledgement of the victims, and a reaffirmation of their living relatives, allowing for a reconstruction of their cultural universe. They also represent a highly concrete form of evidence of military violence - an "objective truth", and a direct condemnation of impunity.

Exhumations and commemorations do not equate with punishment of those responsible for the abuse. Many people in Guatemala are now demanding both judicial sanctions against perpetrators, and

economic compensation for their victims: yet given political and legal constraints, and the sheer scale of the repression, they are not likely to secure either. Unmet calls for compensation could potentially be a source of political conflict in the future. Perhaps the best that can be hoped for, in terms of reconciliation, is an agreement between people to reconcile their differences by non-violent means.

Truth-telling processes necessarily start with victims' testimonies, but can also extend to include the perpetrators of violence. The REMEH initiative, like the South African TRC, aimed to give perpetrators of violence a space to give their testimony. A number did come forward, although the majority of accounts were from victims.

Determining degrees of complicity and culpability in widespread human rights' abuse is a problematic and much-debated question. Yet, in Guatemala, where huge numbers of peasants were forced to kill each other by the army during the counter-insurgency war, many of the material authors of atrocities are also victims themselves.

PODIUM
DR RACHEL SIDER

From a speech on the moral consequences of violence in Guatemala given at Oxford

Many of these people in the area I worked remained unable to tell their stories, fearing retribution, both from the military (for breaking the complicity of silence) and from their victims. Some appeared to be in denial, unable to confront the enormity of what they had done.

But what of the principal intellectual and material authors of the counter-insurgency violence? In the absence of any

"amnesty for truth" deals or powers of subpoena on the part of truth commissions, the experience throughout Latin America has shown that it takes years for military officers responsible for human rights abuse to come forward and tell their story. Most never do, and remain convinced that their actions were justified in the prevailing ideological and political context. This has undoubtedly constituted a weakness of post-conflict reconciliation in the region (only in exceptional cases, such as Chile, have leading members of the transition government acknowledged official responsibility for abuses).

However, even in the case of South Africa, where the TRC did demand testimony in exchange for amnesty, it has not attempted to secure repentance on the part of those guilty of abuses. The question remains as to what extent a new moral community can be built in the absence of recognition of guilt and a serious desire to change by perpetrators.

In Latin America, official processes of remembering have generally not been tied to judicial processes, and have tended not to individualise guilt

(name names). Nonetheless, as the Chilean truth and reconciliation commissioner, Jose Zalaquett, has pointed out, they are an official means to try and reconstitute moral and political orders by particular ways of remembering the past.

In this sense, official truth-telling exercises are part of a transitional renegotiation of the normative values, or moral community, of the nation-state. In Guatemala, the continuing power and influence of the military has resulted in a limited mandate for the commission, and a difficult and restricted atmosphere within which to discuss the past.

In addition, despite the efforts made to reform the judicial system as part of the peace process, it remains largely incapable of sanctioning even current abuses of human rights, thereby perpetuating impunity and fear. In such an environment, it is unrealistic to expect that the truth commission alone will significantly strengthen the rule of law.

From *Burying the Past: Justice, Forgiveness & Reconciliation in Politics*

MONDAY

SIXTH-FORM

When my uncle told me I had to be a revolutionary in my generation...

To the fortunate few who have been able to escape the horrors of the past...

My poetry is written out of the heart of the pain I feel as I look back on the lives of those who have been lost...

I, Laureate to the...

Our poems are a collection of poems from the collection 'The Revolution'...

The exhibition is open from 10.00 to 5.00 pm at the Church of St. Martin, London...

15 Nov

England's dodgy tapestry



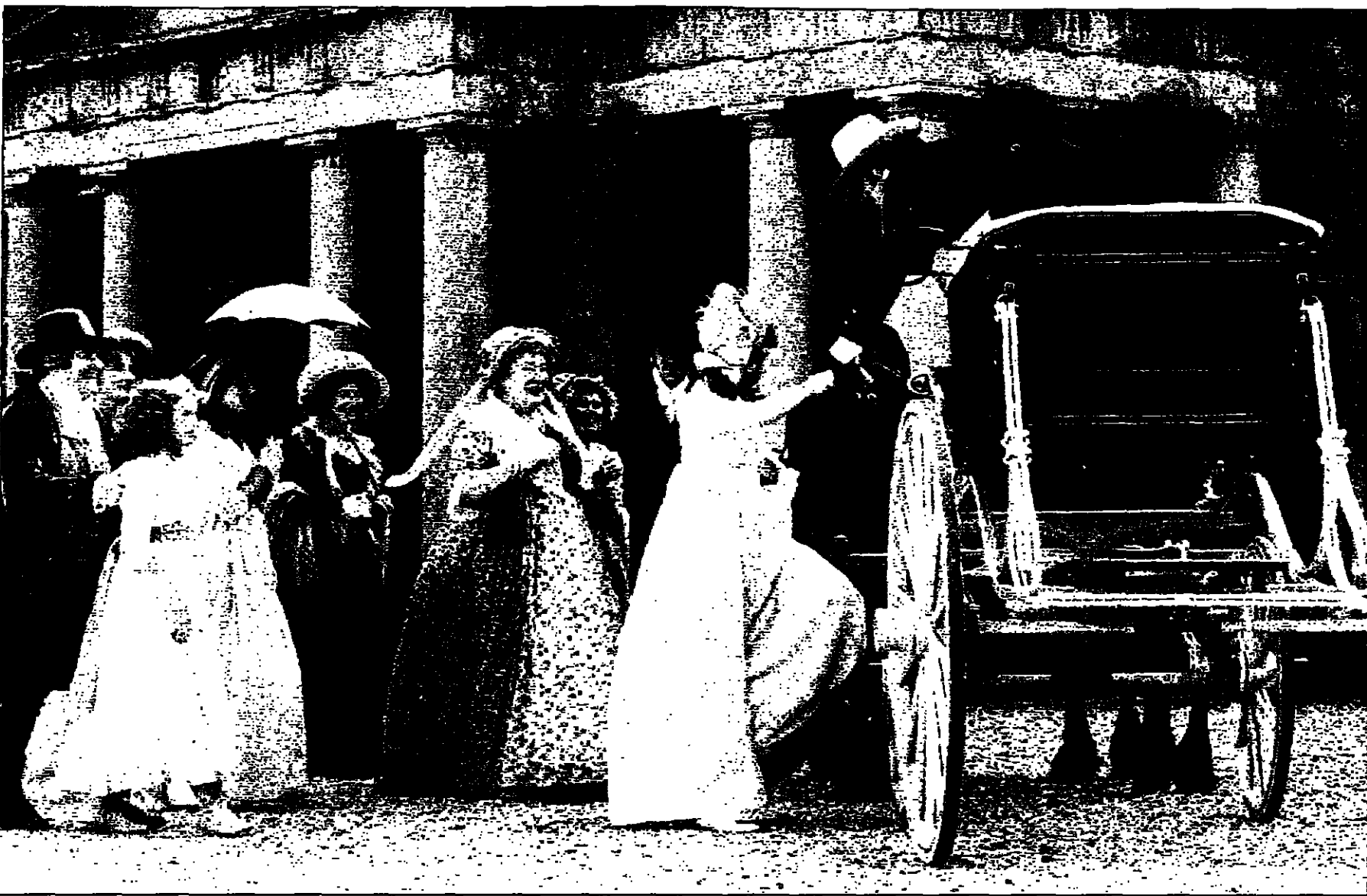
JOHN WALSH
Mr Paxman's complexion is deep pink. I fail to see how anyone could call him an Afro-Caribbean

THE POPULATION of England is about to be hurled into yet another spasm of self-consciousness, in which hundreds of people without any particular claim to anthropological insight or psychological penetration will try to define the "essence" of "Englishness" through a list of cute details. The last time it was done was on the publication of Julian Barnes's novel, *England, England* a few weeks ago. The time before, it was John Major's romantic little rhapsody about (my memory's a little hazy) district nurses from Surrey cycling tipsily across village greens and cricket pitches while reeking of stale beer. The time before that, it was Bill Bryson's list of things like chocolate biscuits, the Woolsock and Gardeners' Question Time in Notes from a Small Island. The time before that... but you get the picture.

This latest occasion is Jeremy Paxman's book *The English: A Portrait of a People*, extracts from which have been appearing in a Sunday newspaper. Among the flood of details which Mr Paxman presents as typical of Albion culture are the usual procession of sausages, flagellation, DIY, crumpets and October bonfires, along with a few rather dodgy foreign imports like dry-stone walls (Irish), an obsession with breasts (American), excessive drinking (German) and curry (Polish - only kidding).

But future weeks will, I guarantee, see dozens of articles, like this one, adding a few more coloured threads to the shabby tapestry of English things.

Amid Paxman's trenchant ruminations on our common prejudices, there was one that stopped me in my tracks. When discussing nationalism - and the curious fact that it is more a British than an English thing - Paxman recalls getting some nasty correspondence from bigots. One bit of hate mail accused him of being part of a Jewish conspiracy to destabilise the Christian state. The other, more curiously, contended itself with enclosing a cartoon picture of a British soldier firing a gun from a trench, above the caption, "Don't move, nigger". Further ideograms seemed to suggest that Mr Paxman should be strung up on a gallows. The communication ended with the cheery



A too genteel view of Jane Austen's 'Sense & Sensibility', above? For 'Mansfield Park' a film company wanted real scenes of cruelty and rape

salutation: "Proud to be British."

Well, I've racked my brains to make sense of this but I confess it's beyond me. To call Mr Paxman an argumentative so-and-so, a hectoring quiz master or a Jew is, I suppose, fair comment. To suggest that he should be hanged is clearly going a bit far. But to upbraid him for being a Negro is surely right over the top. Mr Paxman's normal complexion is an attractive deep pink, sometimes shading into an irascible terracotta, occasionally darkening to a tanned and swarthy Tuscan ochre. But I fail to see how anybody could confuse him with an Afro-Caribbean.

Oddly enough, Auberon Waugh once tried a similar trick of misattribution when, as a student at Oxford, he lost a putative girlfriend to the bow-tied and exotic Grey Gowrie. Incensed, Waugh proceeded to spread the rumour that his lordship was partly or wholly Jamaican, in the teeth of all empirical evidence.

It seemed an odd form of revenge at the time; now, given Pax's experience, it looks part of a larger trend - just one more of those quintessences of Englishness: pre-

tending that someone you don't like is secretly black.

ONE OTHER particularly English quality at the moment seems to be Shopping Your Partner in the Public Press. There's a lot of it about. The spectacle isn't a pretty one but, goodness, it can come up with some wonderfully pungent little details. Like the news, from Mrs Margaret Cook, that her husband, when a small boy, was sent to collect half-a-dozen eggs in the time of post-war rationing and dropping them all, for which he was spanked. I think we've agreed that this explains a lot.

We're also indebted to Will Carling, for his selfless revelations in the *Daily Mail* this week about how he came to dump his wife, his parents, his new girlfriend and his 11-month baby son, Henry. Carling's constantly reiterated self-abasement is a wonder to behold. "I certainly did not know how to communicate within a relationship," he explains. "I did not take a particularly romantic or mature approach to marriage with Julia." Then: "I never made a pass at

her," he says of the Princess of Wales. "I'm actually rather shy." He could never relate to women except as potential shags. At key points in his life, when things weren't going well, he says, repeatedly, "I closed down emotionally and retreated inside myself", sounding like a three-year-old reflecting on his capacity to have a blue fit. Whatever the pop-psychology in which Mr Carling wraps himself, nothing explains his behaviour as much as the detail that, when at Sedburgh public school, he was forced to wear short trousers, even in the sixth form. Everything about him is pure arrested development. How do you go on wearing short trousers after school? A career in rugby. How do you deal with relationships that are a crowding in a bit? A stiff-arm fend-off. How do you approach women? With a flying tackle. Ah, the simplicity of life in abbreviated pants...

STRANGE NEWS reaches my ears from the world of illustrators. A prize beyond riches can be theirs if they can manage to draw with conviction Sir Harold Pinter in the act of flogging and ravishing slaves

sometime in the 1800s. That's not asking much is it?

I'm not making it up. An artist friend tells me the odd history of how she was approached by the Miramax film company, introduced to the art director of a new movie and given an exciting brief to supply drawings for a forthcoming film of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, published in 1814. No details of actors or director were given; it was jolly hush-hush. Just do these illustrations and get them down here, double quick.

Every reader of Ms Austen's more boringly moralising book will recall how its heroine, the prim and timid Fanny Price, gets involved with the Bertrams, owners of the titular mansion, and how its owner Sir Thomas Bertram takes off to the West Indies on unspecified trading business, and later falls out with the ferocious knight for rejecting the proffered hand of Henry Crawford. In the film treatment, Fanny discovers the true nature of Sir Thomas when she stumbles on some pictures that were painted during his Caribbean sojourn, pictures that incriminate him in shocking scenes of cruelty and rape.

Jane Austen preferred merely to hint at her readers about the worldliness of Sir Thomas. At Miramax, they've grasped the window of creative opportunity with both sweaty and trembling hands. What they commissioned was a series of illustrations of a furious white settler flogging a succession of slaves at a trading post; and several others of the same imperial villain raping terrified black girls.

My friend tried some preliminary drawings, got stuck and requested some "references" as to the faces, costumes etc she should be trying to capture. In the post, rather to her surprise, came a clutch of photographs of Sir Harold Pinter, looking cross, as the fictional knight. She duly worried away translating Pinter's face to the A4 page and finishing up with a succession of strong images of savagery, sex, gross insertion à la Clinton, whipping blood, gore etc. To her great chagrin, they were turned down, as being insufficiently vivid. "We were hoping," she was told, "for something more Goya-ish." Never mind, I told her. You did your best. It's just so difficult, isn't it, capturing the elusive Jane Austen quality.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DEREK HODGSON



The head of the Communication Workers Union on the future of the Post Office

IN YOUR lead editorial on the future of the Post Office, you first advocate privatisation and then suggest "that the word 'privatisation' should not be used". To equate commercial freedom with privatisation shows complete ignorance of a debate that started in 1982. The Communication Workers' Union, the Labour Party, the Trade and Industry Select Committee and the independent consultancy, London Economics, have all argued for commercial freedom in the public sector.

You recognise that "letter post is a natural monopoly and, to some extent, a public service". You acknowledge that the Post Office has "become a much more efficient organisation recently" and that "almost all the Conservative privatisations were flawed". Public ownership of the Post Office has been a success.

The Communication Workers Union has played a full part in the Government's Review of the Post Office. The Labour Party was elected on a pledge not to privatise the Post Office. The review has, in the Union's view, confirmed the wisdom of that pledge. There is no case for privatisation in any form.

Years of speculation on the future of the Post Office have diverted management and the union from our main task of working together to create a more efficient Post Office in an increasingly competitive environment. Privatisation would require contentious legislation and cause damaging delay to commercial freedom.

The Government should end uncertainty by making the Post Office an Independent Publicly Owned Corporation. This would include regulation and other disciplines to ensure the Post Office's continued success. The Government, as the owner of the Post Office, would enjoy a fair return to help finance current and future public spending.

False note fills a tale of horror

WHAT IS the point of writing books about serial killers? Readers like them, as we know from the success of novelists such as Thomas Harris and Patricia Cornwell who have made serial murder their stock-in-trade. Their fiction, however, contributes to the lurid myths which have grown up around a subject which is sufficiently compelling in its own right. To them we owe the popular notion of serial killers as charismatic and fiendishly clever figures we find hard to square with real examples, like Fred and Rosemary West: the Gloucester couple whose violent career is the subject of Gordon Burn's new book.

MONDAY POEM

SIXTH-FORM POET
BY DANNIE ABSE

When my acne almost cleared
I fell in love with humankind
I wanted to requisition Poetry,
a revolution in my mind.

To the barricades not the court,
my gorgeous rage would console.
Though love be blind it sees
with the optic nerve of the soul.

Poetry is written in the brain
but the brain is bathed in blood.
I sang no praises for the King,
I laureate to Robin Hood.

Our poems until Wednesday
came from Dannie Abse's new
collection, *'Arcadia, One Mile'*
(Hutchinson, £6.99).
The exhibition 'Dannie Abse:
poet and doctor' runs at
Church Farmhouse Museum,
Hendon, London NW4 until
15 November

MONDAY BOOK

HAPPY LIKE MURDERERS
BY GORDON BURN, FABER & FABER, £17.99

Happy Like Murderers is not a novel but an attempt to reveal "the strange inner dynamic of the Wests' relationship". There is nothing wrong with this in principle, given that the more we know about serial killers, the less likely it is that future murderers will get away with their crimes for so long.

One of the most astonishing things about the discovery in 1994 of so many sets of human remains at 25 Cromwell Street, was that girls and young women connected with the house had been disappearing for such a long time without arousing suspicions.

What became clear at Rose West's trial in 1996, after her husband committed suicide in prison, was that the lodgers and clients - she worked as a prostitute - who thronged the house were not the sort of people to take their worries to the police. The normal sexual boundaries were simply non-existent in this strange household, where adults wandered around half-naked and children watched pornographic videos while eating their dinner. The young women on whom the Wests preyed were, for the most part, teenage girls who came from families where incest was rife.

At her trial, Rose denied all the murders she had been charged with, claiming that Fred had committed them on his own. It is true that Fred West was already a murderer when he met the underage Rosemary Letts and began to court her with cheap gifts. That this much older man systematically corrupted the troubled school-

girl, moulding her to his sexual tastes, is in no doubt. Nor is her subsequent viciousness towards Fred's children from a previous marriage and her own offspring, catalogued in Burn's book in stomach-churning detail.

In 1973, Rose was found guilty with her husband of indecent assault on a young woman who had briefly worked as the couple's nanny, confirming her willingness to take part in sexual attacks. What remains in doubt, despite Rose's convictions, is her involvement in the actual killings - a question addressed in Brian Masters's exemplary volume, *She Must Have Known: The Trial of Rosemary West*. For reasons he does not go into, this question does not interest Gordon Burn, with the murders playing a relatively minor role in his text. And this is where the problems begin.

For most of the book, Burn adopts a chummy tone which approximates to speech. But whose speech? Here is Burn describing a new development in the Wests' relationship after Fred finished a short prison sentence in 1971: "[Rose] would go with some of his black men friends, who, he had been assuring her, were massive. His black men." These bursts of sentences, often without verbs, are unsettling. Fred West is dead, and any attempt to get inside his head, as Burn tries to do, verges on imposture. The book has no footnotes, merely a two-page list of acknowledgements, which means that the reader has little idea of the accuracy of his portrait of Fred, or its precise sources.

In that sense, much of the book is



The Wests' house of horrors at 25 Cromwell Road George Phillips

novelistic - worrying enough, given that the subject tends in any case towards horror fiction. But what are we to make of scenes like this, in which Burn describes Rose sexually assaulting one of her young victims? "Sometimes your legs were tied open, and sometimes your hands were tied behind your back. And once you were trussed up and unable to move the assault would begin". Who is the "you" addressed in this passage? In its entirety - it is too long and too unpleasant to quote - it employs many of the devices of suspense, including repetition and one-word sentences, to conjure up an atmosphere of terror and expectation. But it does more. There is a disturbing elision between the immobilised child-victim and the reader,

achieved through a use of language whose most obvious point of comparison is pornography.

This is a bizarre outcome for an apparently serious book. What serial killers do is so horrible - and to a minority of readers, so exciting - that the mere repetition of the facts produces strong reactions. That is why many writers adopt a sober, even forensic, approach in their attempts to elucidate the subject.

What Burn's book lacks, in stark contrast, is any degree of distant authority. He has turned the lives of Fred and Rosemary West into a narrative which horrifies, disgusts and assaults the reader, without making a clear distinction between fact and speculation.

JOAN SMITH

"Have you read a good book lately?"

Can you recommend a book? Jenny Bloom is blind, but she can still enjoy a good read, thanks to braille books.

Jenny wants your advice to choose her next book - and the National Library for the Blind (NLB) needs your donation to give more blind people the priceless gift of reading.

NLB is a charity devoted to providing novels, cookbooks, biographies... every sort of book in braille. But each long-lasting book costs £20 in special materials alone.

Please send all the help you can. You can recommend a book that's special to you, too. Then NLB can put your suggestions to readers like Jenny, and make the most popular into braille for thousands of people to enjoy. Thank you

Please give blind people the chance to read a book you love

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by (author):
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Carolyn Douglas

CAROLYN DOUGLAS was the founding director of Exploring Parenthood (EP), a voluntary organisation set up to work with parents. She believed that all parents should have access to professionally based support systems. Through her work at EP she was one of the key individuals instrumental in changing society's perception of the needs and role of parents, and the importance of parenting. The establishment of the National Parenting Institute earlier this year with funding from the Home Office was a culmination of Douglas's and EP's work.

She was born Carolyn Williamson in Abercynon in the Taff Valley in 1940, an only child. Educated at Mountain Ash Grammar School, she was the school's first pupil to leave Wales for higher education. She read Psychology and Social Administration at Nottingham University, where she met her husband, Stuart Douglas, and went on to do a post-graduate Diploma in Mental Health at the London School of Economics. She became a Psychiatric Social Worker at the Institute of Psychology, and in 1970 joined the Paddington Centre for Psychotherapy. It was here that she started to train in family therapy.

Increasing disillusion with traditional approaches led Douglas, along with her colleague Ruth Schmitt-Neven, to set up a new independent organisation that was committed to working in partnership with parents.

I first met Douglas in the autumn of 1983, shortly after the birth of my first child. She had recently started Exploring Parenthood and was its Co-Director. I attended a workshop for fathers run by her and Schmitt-Neven (who later moved to Australia). I was attracted by the name "Exploring Parenthood"; I wanted to think about and discuss what being a parent meant and involved beyond the initial concerns of physical care.

I had learnt how to change nappies and be the main carer. The workshop was able to articulate other concerns - how having a baby affected the relationship between the parents, how parents and especially men tried to balance work and family life, and how parents could get information and continued support in their roles. All these issues were covered. This started my long involvement with Carolyn Douglas and EP.

The organisation devised a way of working with parents based on respect for them and understanding their needs. A series of workshops encouraged parents to arrive at answers for themselves in a supportive environment with other parents and the help of a skilled facilitator. The workshops were held in comfortable venues with an excellent lunch. Parents were valued and felt valued. This approach arose from Douglas's ability to engage in psychodynamic thinking that was based in a practical reality.



At this time in the early Eighties EP was one of the few organisations offering support of this kind to all parents irrespective of whether they had an identified problem. Douglas and the people she attracted to work with her brought professional skills as social workers, family therapists or other disciplines. The workshops required them to make a significant mind shift in order to see parents in their totality and not as people who created problems in their children or who were inadequate in their role as parents.

In these early days Exploring Parenthood was criticised for being an organisation that served the middle classes. There was some truth in this, which troubled Douglas who had a strong sense of social justice. She understood that the social realities of people's lives had a significant effect on their ability as parents and maintained

that all parents could understand and benefit from the knowledge of professionals in the childcare and mental health fields.

Her response to the criticism was to make changes so that EP could reach parents from all sectors of society. One example was the establishment of the Moyenda, a project for and run by black people, as part of EP Other initiatives set up by Douglas included a project for parents whose children were involved in crime, a parents' advice line, projects with homeless families and support for parents at work.

In 1992, ten years after Exploring Parenthood was established, a multi-disciplinary conference was held in Westminster. One of its aims was to stimulate politicians into taking the needs of parents seriously. This was successful in that an All Party Parliamentary Group on Parenting was established

with EP acting as its clerk. Douglas stopped being Director of EP in 1997 but continued to be involved in its activities. She was planning the next cycle of training courses when she died.

In many ways, Carolyn Douglas was Exploring Parenthood, its vision was her vision. She had the great skill of getting across difficult concepts in a way that parents could understand. She herself was vibrant, stylish and outspoken, an inspirational speaker in spite of her innate shyness. She was moreover almost singlehandedly responsible for changing society's understanding of the role and needs of parenting.

STEVE GOODE

Carolyn Maynard Williamson, family therapist, born Abercynon, Glamorgan 4 April 1940; married 1964 Stuart Douglas (one son, two daughters); died 3 September 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

SUSAN MUMM

Lewes riots for a stolen daughter

IT MUST have been obvious that trouble was brewing as the Rev John Scobell read the burial service over the body of his daughter Amy in the autumn of 1857. But the unrest apparent in All Saints' Church, Lewes, gave only the faintest of clues to the violence that would erupt minutes later in the churchyard. The "Lewes Riot" sparked by the burial continued sporadically for several days, and so excited the local media that the Sussex Advertiser published an "Extraordinary Edition" to chronicle the disturbances.

The dead woman, Amy Scobell, had grown up in an ordinary early Victorian family. A stern, authoritarian father, a loving but shadowy mother, and a handful of siblings. But something set Amy apart in her mid-twenties. Disastrously, by the standards of the time, she failed to marry. Perhaps she chose not to - we don't know. Instead, shockingly, she became a nun. In 1856 Amy joined the Society of St. Margaret, an Anglican sisterhood based in Sussex. The community was a nursing order, and Amy enjoyed the life. She worked as a nurse until she caught scarlet fever from one of her patients and died, less than two years after entering.

A sad little story of an ordinary life cut short, or so it seems. But the extreme nature of the family and public reaction to Amy's life and death needs explaining. It can only be understood if we put it into the context of the times. Women who failed to marry were expected to devote themselves to their parents until their deaths, and then to transfer their unpaid domestic services to the household of a sibling. The omnivorous Victorian family was capable of consuming all.

Scobell, like many another Victorian paterfamilias, believed that single women must not rebel against parental authority, whatever their own ambitions. He claimed that the sisterhood lured away his daughter, whom he described as "a mere child". This "child" was in her late twenties or early thirties when she left the paternal roof - unmarried women, in a very real sense, never came of age.

These early Anglican sisters were called "stolen daughters", and this phrase encapsulated the attitude of the general public toward the communities. "Stolen" summarised the belief that community life



Community life for women was seen as unnatural in Victorian England

for women was so unnatural that well-brought up women would not enter willingly. "Daughter", too, is significant. An unmarried woman in middle life was still seen first and foremost as a daughter, with a daughter's duties and a daughter's powerlessness. Scobell, like many others, demonstrated a profound incomprehension of his daughter's desire to live in a community of women. The fact that Amy Scobell felt a sense of vocation which did not include father or husband as its central focus was incomprehensible to him.

We have established why Amy's decision to join a sisterhood destroyed her relationship with her family. In order to understand the riot in the churchyard, we must examine the series of symbolic affronts to the family that took place during the funeral itself. The sisters, not her relatives, accompanied her body to the grave. There was a dispute in the street over who should take the place of chief mourner, the sisters or Mr Scobell. At the church the nuns grouped themselves around the coffin in the place usually taken by family members. The riot broke out in the churchyard after the interment, where the sisters were attacked by the mob and had to scramble over a wall in order to save themselves. Farcically, they took refuge in a pub where they were hidden until nightfall, when they left town in disguise.

Susan Mumm is author of *Stolen Daughters, Virgin Mothers: Anglican Sisterhoods in Victorian Britain* (Leicester University Press, £22.50)

Womb magic from an artist who teases

THE 1936 International Surrealist Exhibition, at the New Burlington Galleries, caused a considerable stir. The critics were deeply divided, the public thought it immoral, and Salvador Dalí, flouting instructions that the artists should not draw attention to themselves, arrived in a diving suit (he nearly suffocated inside the helmet), with a pair of Russian wolfhounds, a billiard cue and a jewelled dagger on his belt. Eileen Agar also made her name at the exhibition. Now 88, she is one of the last surviving painters of the English Surrealist circle, and her work still bears their stamp.

Tiny and slightly stooping, she has a birdlike grace, inscrutable wide-set eyes, and a roughish playfulness about the mouth. When I met her at her Kensington flat, she told me, with particular relish, the story of how she became a Surrealist (she accents the first syllable) overnight.

It was early in the spring of 1936, and the painter Roland Penrose and the critic Herbert Read were looking around for work for the exhibition. "I had my studio at that time decorated with all sorts of strange objects and masks, and they looked around and said, 'Oh, but you're a Surrealist.' Am I?" I said - and they took away two or three paintings and some objects. "She was delighted: 'I was completely unknown. I'd hardly exhibited before - so of course I was grateful, it meant I could show my work.'"

After her rather dour art training at the Slade, it was, she says, the imaginative freedom of the Surrealists that appealed

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

28 SEPTEMBER 1988

Diana Hinds meets Eileen Agar, one of the last surviving painters of the English Surrealist circle

to her, and she continued to exhibit with them for many years. But she maintained, nevertheless, an independent view on matters of Surrealist orthodoxy: "automatism", for example - the technique of automatic painting or writing, dictated from the unconscious - she simply did not believe in.

"The Surrealists, thank goodness, believed in a sense of humour - jokes, everything that was lively, a bit different." She recalls, with a croaky laugh, one occasion when Surrealists gathered at a pre-war haunt, the Barcelona Restaurant in Beak Street. "George Melly was asked to do something strange: he waited until a whole lot of knives and forks and threw them in the air. They all came clattering down, and the people downstairs thought 'My God, what's happened?' until we explained it was just a Surrealist joke." Much of her work bears a similarly teasing stamp, for instance her "ceremonial hat for eating lobster à la mode", which she made in 1937 out of an upside-down cork basket with shellfish attached.

At the heart of it, however,

lies a commitment to nature, and to what the Surrealists called the "found object", something which she shared particularly with the painter Paul Nash. She first met Nash in 1935, while on holiday with her husband Joseph Bard (a Hungarian writer and collector of gems; he died in 1975) in Swanage. "Paul used to bring me curious stones that he had picked up on the beach," she writes in her autobiography, *A Look At My Life*, "and as he said, he felt rather like a penguin, laying them metaphorically at my feet."

Her paintings explore the diversity of the animate and inanimate worlds, piecing them together in shards of vivid colour her love of colour, she says, derives from her early childhood in Argentina. One of her most outstanding works, *The Autobiography of an Embryo* (1933), now hanging in the Tate, is a large, brilliant mosaic of disparate images, out of which grew her notion of "womb magic" - that the foetus in the womb relives each stage of evolution, from a tiny aquatic creature to a human, and represents a miraculous, imaginative force. Eileen Agar admits that she was one of the very few women among the Surrealists to be taken seriously as a painter; André Breton's wife, for instance, was a talented artist, but Breton didn't even know about it until other people told him. "They always thought of women as Muses," she comments dryly. "I was more interested in being a painter than being good-looking."

From the *Living page of The Independent*, Wednesday 28 September 1988

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
beguine, n.

dance with the signal "beguine". Its seductive pace echoes the French word - *beguine* - for a fancy or infatuation. More difficult than se-

duction itself, the song took a while to gain wide recognition, with Artie Shaw's version. But are there religious echoes? It was a medieval order named after Lambert le Begue, so called because he stammered. This order was chaste, the Dutch less so: nuns could leave and marry - end the beguine, one might say.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

MASTERS: Brian John, The Right Rev, Bishop of Edmonton, 84, died 22 September 1998 suddenly at home, aged 60. Funeral Mass at St Paul's Cathedral, Friday 2 October at 11am followed by private burial at Brookwood Cemetery. Donations to L.D.F. Bishop Masters' Memorial Fund. Enquiries to Leverton and Sons Ltd 0171 357 6075.

IN MEMORIAM

STATHAM: Catherine Ann 1967-1992. Loving memories of Cathy, who died tragically on this day. "Absolute treasure".

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Sally Dormer, "Book of Hours", 2pm.
The Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "Sculpture: plaquettes, medals and waxes", 1pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number. The Independent's main editorial number is 0171-293 2900.

BIRTHDAYS

Lord Abinger, farmer and company director, 84; Sir Nigel Althaus, former Government Broker, 69; Miss Brigitte Bardot, actress, 64; Mr Joseph Benton MP, 65; Sir Colin Berry, Professor of Morbid Anatomy, London Hospital Medical College, 61; The Duke of Buccleuch, Captain, the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 75; Sir Robin Buchanan, former chairman, NHS Supplies Authority, 68; Lord Cockfield, a former vice-president, Commission of the European Communities, 82; Miss Joanna Drew, former director, Hayward and Regional Exhibitions, South Bank, 69; Mr Peter Egan, actor, 53; Dame Phyllis Friend, former chief nursing officer, DHSS, 76; Lieut-Gen Scott Grant, Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies, 54; Sir David Hannay, diplomat, 63; Mr Leonard Harrison MEP, 51; Sir Michael Harrison, High Court Judge, 59; Dr Barry Heywood, director, British Antarctic Survey, 81; Sir Trevor Hughes, municipal engineer, 78; Sir Jeremy Isaacs, former general director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 66; Miss Alice Mahon MP, 61; Miss Ellen Malcolm, painter, 75; Sir Peter Miller, former chairman of Lloyd's, 68; Major Edward Orr Ewing, Lord-Lieutenant of Wigtown, 67; Max Schmelling, heavyweight boxer, 93; Miss Helen Shapiro, singer, 52; Mr Jon Snow, television journalist, 51.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, painter, 1573;

Pierre de Maupertius, astronomer and mathematician, 1698; William Julius Mickie, poet, 1735; John "Gentleman" Jackson, pugilist, 1768; Richard Bright, physician and discoverer of "Bright's disease", 1789; Giovanni Buonaventura Genelli, painter, 1798; Adrian Ludwig Richter, painter, 1803; Prosper Mérimée, playwright and novelist, 1803; Alexandre Cabanel, painter, 1823; Francis Turner Palgrave, poet and editor, 1824; Jean Louis Gobbels, pianist and composer, 1835; Georges Clemenceau, statesman, 1841; Field Marshal John Denton Pinkstone French, first Earl of Ypres, 1852; Edward Herbert Thompson, explorer and archaeologist, 1856; Florent Schmitt, composer, 1870; Pietro Badoglio, statesman and soldier, 1871; Herman Cyril McNelle ("Sapper"), novelist, 1888; Peter Finch, actor, 1916.

Deaths: St Wenceslaus, Prince of Bohemia, martyred, 925; Henry VI, Holy Roman Emperor, 1197; Andrea del Sarto, painter, 1530; Thomas Gambier Parry, painter, and inventor of the "spirit fresco" process, 1888; Herman Melville, novelist, 1891; Louis Pasteur, chemist, 1895; Emile-Edouard Charles-Antoine Zola, novelist, 1902; Sir Alfred East, painter and etcher, 1913; Maundy Gregory, notorious "honours broker", 1941; Gregg Tolland, film cameraman, 1948; Edwin Powell Hubble, astronomer, 1953; Gerard Hoffnung, humorist, artist and musician, 1959; Estelle Sylvia Pankhurst, artist and feminist, 1960; Arthur "Harpo" Marx, comedian, 1964; André Breton, poet and pioneer of

surrealism, 1966; John Roderigo Dos Passos, novelist, 1970; Gamal Abdel Nasser, statesman, 1970; Wylan Hugh Auden, poet, 1973; Pope John Paul I (Albino Luciani), reigned only 33 days, 1978; Sir Robert Helpmann, dancer and actor, 1986; The Hon William Douglas-Home, playwright, 1992.

On this day: the Persians were defeated by the Greeks at the Battle of Marathon, 490 BC; during the Hundred Years' War, Calais surrendered to the English, 1347; Admiral Blake defeated the Dutch Admiral Van Tromp off Dover, 1652; Judge Jeffries was appointed Lord Chancellor of England, 1685; "God Save the King", the national anthem, was sung for the first time, at the Drury Lane Theatre, London, 1745; Bismarck made his "Blood and Iron" speech, 1862; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was admitted to the register as the first qualified woman physician and surgeon in Britain, 1865; Marks and Spencer's first shop opened in Manchester, 1894; the Turks were defeated by British forces at Kut-al-Amara, Mesopotamia, 1915; the *Radio Times* was first published, 1923; two US Army aircraft completed the first round the world flight, ending at Seattle, 1924; Canadian troops entered Calais, 1944; in France, a referendum on the constitution of the Fifth Republic was held, 1958.

Today is the Feast Day of St Annemund or Charnond, St Eustochium of Bethlehem, St Exuperius or Soupre of Toulouse, St Faustus of Riez, St Ferreolus of Vienne, St Lloba and St Wenceslaus of Bohemia.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York opens the Brighton Society for the Blind, Sussex Vision Centre, Hellingdean, East Sussex; visits St Dunstan's Rehabilitation and Training Centre, Ovingdean, Brighton; and attends the Dining Out of the First Sea Lord at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

APPOINTMENTS

Miss Caroline Elmes, to be ambassador to the Republic of Angola.
Mr Peter Spenceley, to be ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.
Mr David Hollamby, to be governor and commander-in-chief of St Helena.
Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, to be President of the Institute of Physics.
Mr David Levin, to be Headmaster, City of London School, with effect from 1 September 1999.
Lord Justice Phillips, to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.
Mr Justice Tuckey, Mr Justice Clarke, Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Sedley, to be Lord Justices of Appeal.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

CHRIS AND RICK FARRAH-MILLS ARE GAY, IN LOVE - AND DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THEY GOT MARRIED

Our vows show this love is so strong

Chris Farrah-Mills, 37, owns a gay bookshop in Brighton and another shop in Leves. He lives in Hove with his partner Rick Farrah-Mills, 31. Rick helps run the two businesses. As a mark of commitment, they decided to have a gay wedding

Chris

I hadn't envisaged that I would have a relationship with anybody again when I met Richard. I thought Richard was attached, and when I first got to know him, I was making a documentary with FAB (Fighting Aids in Brighton) for Channel 4 on the Aids crisis in Britain. We were interviewing people at Gay Pride in 1993, and Richard was one of the interviewees. He was dressed in Doc Martin boots, a rubber T-shirt and a pair of shorts, with the most beautiful olive skin, and I thought: 'I've never seen such an attractive man in my life.' And then I chuckled to myself thinking: 'A shame you're old and fat and he's not.' Then things developed...

We had our ceremony two years ago, at the King Alfred Suite, a Hove council building. We designed our own ceremony and arranged all the music. We debated what vows to have and thought that 'love, honour and obey' was very old-fashioned and not really us.

We'd lived together for some time, so we thought we'd have it relevant to our everyday lives. So I promised to love Richard, even when he was vague and wouldn't get up in the morning.

We exchanged matching, white gold rings. Then there was a certificate to be signed. We thought the idea of having selected witnesses to be rather elitist, so we asked everyone in the congregation if they would sign it. All our friends were there - about 50 in all.

We wanted to do something our way - suddenly, I'd gone from being a confirmed bachelor to sharing my life with somebody. We'd been denied the rite of passage: marriage was only for the good guys - the straights, not for us. And queer marriage was very much on the queer rights' agenda at the time, so I think that's why we chose it.

After the wedding, I thought, 'I feel different', and to me, the rite of passage had worked. I wasn't the mixture of the frightened 16-year-old and the assertive 20-year-old. By that time I was in my mid-thirties and I needed to move on - and I had: I'd become a married man. Middle age was now staring me in the face, and not unpleasantly so.

When we took the vow 'for better, for worse' (although we said it in a different way), I thought, well, if we have fallings-out it doesn't matter now. Rick's not going to get up and leave because I'm being a bit nasty - me neither. We row at times and threaten to leave, but we never do. Or we do for five minutes, and then come back.

Straight society always tells us that our relationships are somehow doomed to fail, that they're not 'real' relationships. And to an extent that's true, not because there's anything pathologically or genetically wrong with us, but because there's the homophobia, disapproval of the families - all this baggage of real nastiness following you around.

And it's a complete miracle that any lesbian or gay relationship survives. If they do survive, they should be - must be - celebrated.

Our wedding was about celebration, about standing up affirmatively and saying: 'I'm a gay man, I love another gay man, we're together in a committed relationship, you'll celebrate with us'.

That was a significant moving-on for us.



Chris and Rick: 'We'd been denied the rite of passage: marriage was only for the good guys'

Andrew Hasson

Rick

We'd been living together for about a year before we decided to have a ceremony. We talked about it quite a bit, and what crystallised it for us was a joint book launch we did with Lynn Sutcliffe (founder of the Lesbian Avengers) and Ian Lucas, the Aids activist who is also one of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Something came up about queer marriage: Ian had conducted gay weddings and it was then that we decided to do it.

I got a little jittery beforehand. I think it was suddenly a case of realising what stage we'd got to. It came as quite a jolt to be walking in the King Alfred Centre with Chris, Alison, Arthur and Steve (our supporters) in front of all those people.

We said our vows - I promised to love Chris even when he's had a temper and gets paranoid about money. Everyone who knows Chris knows this is part of his personality. We both thought it was quite important that we should pick on something quite central.

My mum loved the wedding. I've

never had anything but whole-hearted support from her. She's exceptionally accepting, which means a lot to us. There's a large section of the population out there - the little Englanders - who hate us, who would wish us dead. Chris and I, as prominent gay men, doing TV and radio, have had hate-mail and bricks through our window, for instance, after we appeared on *Newsnight*, about the age of consent debate.

To come out is one of the most dramatic things that anybody ever does. There's a portion of your family that hates you for it, you're set

beyond the margins, you will lose some friends. Chris and I had been talking about a change of name and we decided that, rather than one of us changing to the other, we should double-barrel them.

I don't think we're copying heterosexuality. Gay marriage has one important difference: there's no role playing, no patriarchal expectations. It's like a clean slate. Both partners start on an equal footing. There is no expectation of 'one does this, the other does that'.

One of the things that really irritates me is when people, talking

about gay relationships, say 'Who's going to be the man and who the woman?'. Both partners bring different things to the relationship.

We don't go out on the [gay] scene. We used to, but neither of us drinks, and in any case we don't have the time. Looking back, it [the scene] does seem superficial. I think that was one of the reasons why having a ceremony was very important to us: to show that our relationship wasn't a fleeting, transient one.

INTERVIEWS BY
VERONICA GROOCCOCK

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

LICENSING ACT 1964

IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

PETTY SESSIONS DIVISION

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Charities

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND FOR THE AGED

The NBFA was established in 1957 to provide direct practical support to older people in the UK on low income. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we focus on the quality of life of older people as they live longer.

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Legal Notices

MANCHESTER PLANT

HIRE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 1 of the Companies Act 1985, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of Manchester Plant Hire Limited will be held at the offices of the company, 100 High Street, Manchester, M1 1JL, on Thursday, 1st October 1998, at 10.00 am.

The business to be transacted at the meeting is as follows:

1. To consider and approve the annual accounts for the year ended 30 September 1997.

2. To consider and approve the directors' report for the year ended 30 September 1997.

3. To consider and approve the auditors' report for the year ended 30 September 1997.

4. To consider and approve the directors' remuneration report for the year ended 30 September 1997.

5. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's environmental policy for the year ended 30 September 1997.

6. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's social and community relations for the year ended 30 September 1997.

7. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's health and safety for the year ended 30 September 1997.

8. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's quality management for the year ended 30 September 1997.

9. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's research and development for the year ended 30 September 1997.

10. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's human resources for the year ended 30 September 1997.

11. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's information technology for the year ended 30 September 1997.

12. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's legal and compliance for the year ended 30 September 1997.

13. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's risk management for the year ended 30 September 1997.

14. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's corporate governance for the year ended 30 September 1997.

15. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's sustainability for the year ended 30 September 1997.

16. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's diversity for the year ended 30 September 1997.

17. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's ethics for the year ended 30 September 1997.

18. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's reputation for the year ended 30 September 1997.

19. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's brand for the year ended 30 September 1997.

20. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's intellectual property for the year ended 30 September 1997.

21. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's innovation for the year ended 30 September 1997.

22. To consider and approve the directors' report on the company's talent for the year ended 30 September 1997.

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'We must redefine Jewishness'

The number of Jews in Britain is declining, and those committed to the religion's traditions are falling. Is it time, then, for an unorthodox approach? By Darius Sanai

Rachel was sitting at a table next to the big tree at the Spaniards' Inn, in Hampstead, drinking vodka and bitter lemon with her friends. There were seven of them in all, in their late teens, their last year at school or just about to start college, jabbering excitedly about *Home and Away*. All north London girls, they were dressed in black tank tops and tight skirts and gold jewellery. Rachel's group is the British equivalent of Manhattan's Jewish American princesses - well-off, well-educated family girls with high birth-control expectations. Traditionally, north London boys of whatever persuasion quickly learned one thing about girls like Rachel: never ask for a date on a Friday night. In the leafy suburbs which are their homes, Friday, the evening of the Jewish Sabbath, is spent with the family. Even the wildest party girls could tell you that. But last week in the Spaniards, everything seemed to have changed. Rachel had been out the previous Friday with Ben, a boy she met in a pub the Saturday before that and, she called, she was going to see him the next Friday. Any, her best friend, was going clubbing in Brixton. Crewcut Jon, Any's ex, was taking Nicola, with her hand in his, to see *Saving Private Ryan*. None of them was going to spend Friday dinner at home. Their parents, they said, were either unconcerned or resigned. "I don't really feel any of that Jewishness," Rachel said. "I mean, synagogues aren't really me. It's great if my parents want to stay in and I'm quite close to my mum and dad. But I'll see them when I want to, not when I'm supposed to."

Jonathan Romain, the rabbi of the Reform Synagogue in Maidenhead, Berkshire, is pushing forward with his idea of a solution, one that is raising the ire of traditionalists in what is becoming an increasingly pervasive and heated debate about the way forward. Rabbi Romain, a Jewish historian, says: "We have to redefine what being Jewish means. There are many different ways of being Jewish, as well as the faith. Lots of Jews are atheists or agnostics and will stay so and it's something the synagogues need to recognise, or risk losing two-thirds of British Jewry." He is one of a growing number of vocal reformers within the rabbinical system (another is Rabbi Schmuley Boteach, author of *Kosher Sex*, a controversial guide aimed at getting Jews to enjoy reproducing more) who argue the ancient religion has to wake up to the new millennium or risk losing its "people" forever, particularly in countries like Britain which has a comparatively small Jewish community. The views are anathema to traditionalists and those within the orthodoxy (with a small "o"), who argue that to change the rules on being part of the faith will irretrievably dilute what has never been a proselytising religion. If Jewish men are marrying out of the faith (as 48 per cent of British ones are), they say, their children and wives will not, without a long conversion process, ever be Jews, and that is the end of it. Among ordinary Jews, though, the reformists are finding growing support. Last Friday night some 60 people attended Rabbi Romain's sabbath service in Maidenhead. Classes and social activities on weeknights, ironically, attract a higher attendance. The synagogue is a converted large detached house on a suburban road, next to a bed and breakfast. Isaac Greenberg was among those participating in the kiddush, the blessing with wine, after the service. Mr Greenberg, who is Israeli by origin, is typical of Rabbi Romain's flock. "I wasn't religious at all when I was a teenager," he says. "I went very, very rarely to synagogue. We were what you'd call *harmitzvah* and wedding Jews in Israel. My family was too busy living their lives."

Mr Greenberg, now 52, moved to Britain in 1967 after he met and married a British woman from Liverpool. His wife was Church of England, but as lapsed as he was. They had a register-office wedding. It was a few years later, when Mr Greenberg and his wife Joyce had two daughters, that they moved to Cheshire and he started visiting local synagogues "out of curiosity". He found the experience comforting, particularly after his father's death. But one day, in an orthodox synagogue in Sheffield, where he worked on occasion, he had an arresting experience. "I visited the synagogue quite frequently, and I was going to touch the Torah during a service. But then someone whispered in the ear of the rabbi, and I was stopped and they told me, 'You're not married within the faith, you can't go to the Torah'. Within seconds I was reduced to *persona non grata* in the synagogue, and didn't feel like going there again."

Mr Greenberg's story is not atypical among the diverse flock at Maidenhead: Jason and Sarah Miller, a professional couple in their late thirties living in west London, told of being "frozen out" by the regulars at their local synagogue. "After years without ever feeling Jewish, we wanted to participate in the community, just to see what it was like," said Mrs Miller. "But it was like they didn't want to know." If their uncle hadn't introduced them to Rabbi Romain, they say, they probably wouldn't have ended up feeling Jewish at all anymore. Eventually Mr Greenberg, who was becoming quite devoted in his middle years, found an Orthodox synagogue where he was accepted, "against the rules"; he asked that its name not be revealed as those working there may get into trouble. It wasn't until he started coming to Maidenhead (after a move south) that he and his family felt welcomed. His elder daughter, Tamar,

comes to services every Friday. She, too, has married out of the faith; she, too, was "frowned upon" (her expression) by other synagogues. "I would like my children to be brought up like I was," she says, "with both Christmas and Rosh Hashanah, so they could make up their own minds." It is an arrangement her rabbi is happy with. Last Friday, Len Driver dropped in to say hello to the rabbi. Mr Driver (his name has been changed at his request) is one of Rabbi Romain's converts. "If it wasn't for my experiences here, I wouldn't be with the faith now. I would have completely been put off being Jewish," Mr Driver says. As a child he rarely saw the inside of a synagogue and he didn't even have a *harmitzvah*, the traditional "coming-of-age" ceremony for 13-year-old boys. Wanting to explore Judaism

when he was in his twenties, Mr Driver visited a local Orthodox synagogue. "It didn't attract me at all," he says. "It was an exclusive place for the wealthy and I hated it. My Hebrew was poor, and I felt left out." Through a family friend, he found out about the Maidenhead Reform, and started visiting several nights a week for classes, social activities, history lessons and services. "It was never rammed down your throat what you must and mustn't do; everybody was friendly. I loved sitting with old couples and talking about their experiences, and it really brought something out in me." Mr Driver, now 32, became very devout in his twenties, and when he moved to Yorkshire with his (Jewish) wife, became a stalwart of his local synagogue, which is Orthodox. "I love being part of a community. I am a believer but I know a lot of peo-

ple who come who don't believe, who love talking and meeting up and the whole spirit." But now, he thinks Rabbi Romain goes too far. "I'm not happy with welcoming non-Jews into the faith. They have to be 100 per cent committed, because otherwise the whole faith will become diluted, with people who are not born Jewish who also don't share the values. That's dangerous." On Friday, Mr Driver sat in one of Rabbi Romain's conversion classes for inter-marrying couples, which are conducted in a jolly, even irreverent, tone. He would mutter his disagreement when his old mentor outlined a liberal interpretation of a ceremony or ritual. "I don't like that," he said once. The tension in the little room in Maidenhead echoed the arguments within the whole of Britain's declining tribe.



Isaac Greenberg with his wife Joyce (left), daughter Tamar and son-in-law Martin at home in High Wycombe

John Laurence

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE
NO.7 GETTING PREGNANT



ON AVERAGE, women in the UK take about seven months to become pregnant for the first time. Understanding your own fertility cycle may help to increase your chances of conception. Fertility cycles vary in length but you can broadly work out when you are fertile by monitoring your cycle dates and observing the other signs such as thinner, wetter vaginal secretions.

Pre-conception health

- Have a blood test to check whether you are immune to rubella (German measles)
- Take folic acid tablets: 400mcg daily. These should be taken from when you start trying for a baby until the twelfth week of pregnancy to reduce the risk of neural tube defects such as spina bifida.
- Eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Stop or reduce smoking as soon as you plan your pregnancy. 30% of all women smoke.
- Limit your alcohol intake to no more than one or two units of alcohol once or twice a week.
- Avoid recreational drugs and if you are taking any prescribed drugs talk to your GP.
- Take time to relax, avoid stress and fatigue. Look after yourself.
- Continue exercising but don't overdo it.

Conception tips

- Keep an accurate recording of your menstrual cycle to work out your fertile time.
- The length of your cycle is counted from the first day of your period, up to, but not including the first day of your next period.
- Ovulation normally occurs around 14 days before the next period. Women over 30 ovulate less regularly.
- The cervix or neck of the womb produces fertile secretions as ovulation is approaching.
- The wetter, thinner fertile

secretions nourish sperm and help them to swim through the cervix.

- Making love when you recognise these wetter, or slippery, stretchy secretions at the entrance to the vagina will help to increase your chances of pregnancy.
- According to new research from Cardiff University, enjoying sex and achieving orgasm can help conception. In tests, more sperm remained in the cervix of women who found sex more pleasurable.
- Many women believe lying with your bottom raised up resting on a pillow with knees raised for about 30 minutes lets the sperm make their journey assisted by gravity.

What actually happens

- A fertile woman releases one ripe egg approximately 14 days before the next period.
- The egg lives for only 12-24 hours after it is released from the ovary and fertilisation must take place within that time.
- When a man ejaculates he releases more than 300 million sperm in about 5ml of fluid.
- Sperm can live inside a woman's body for two to five days waiting for the egg to be released.
- It can take only 20 minutes for the fastest sperm to reach the waiting egg.
- The sperm penetrates the outer membrane of the egg, then the sperm and egg fuse and fertilisation takes place.

Before you can be considered properly pregnant, the egg has to move down the fallopian tube and reach the womb cavity. There, it burrows into the lining and begins to make a placenta which releases a hormone into your body which is the basis for detecting pregnancy.

Stress

Trying for a baby can turn what is supposed to be a wonderful experience into a nightmare. The stress of waiting, and the demand to have sex at the "right" time can put undue pressure on a couple's relationship. This stress can hinder your chances of conceiving.

Bingo: First signs of pregnancy

- Missed periods.
- Tender larger breasts.
- Increased vaginal discharge without soreness or irritation.
- Feeling tired or sick at any time of the day.

Pregnancy tests can be carried out on a urine sample from the first day of a missed period.

Problems with pregnancy

- After one-year of trying unsuccessfully, a GP will classify a couple as sub-fertile and refer them to a specialist.
- Forty per cent of the population experience some difficulty when trying for a baby.
- One in every six couples has a problem with infertility; 40 per cent of these problems are related to male difficulty, 60 per cent to female.

Boots and Tommy's campaign have a Web site offering advice on pre-conception care for men <http://www.boots.co.uk> or call 0171-520 0188. Fertility UK offers information & referral to a local fertility awareness teacher, 0171-371 1341. Web site <www.fertilityuk.org> has a section on fertility indicators

IN THE STICKS
STEVIE MORGAN

How to move an entire garden in a day

MY MATE Frances makes her living running aerobics classes that make training for an Olympic gold seem like a soft option. So Frances knows about bodies and she says that the section of the population with the toughest arms are mothers of children under two, because lifting steadily growing children is the perfect incremental training. Clearly a case of life influencing art. In the hope that it works the other way round too, I go to the gym believing that battling a flabby botry makes useful physical labour easier. I needed it to be true this weekend because we had to move an entire vegetable garden in a day. It was all the fault of the new greenhouse - the one the size of a central American republic. When Doug measured the plot for it he found that it would neatly cover half of our newly constructed formal veg plot. We checked the measurements three times before facing the horrible reality of dismantling the careful geometry of triangular raised beds and paved paths. Aliens may be able to do large scale fractals on a corn field in a couple of hours but then they don't have to move a tonne of top soil and 100 concrete pavers to do it. "Don't worry," I said, "it won't be too bad. I'll help. I do go to the gym after all." And in my well-meaning naivety I really believed that two aerobic sessions made me as able to dig and harrow and lift as Doug - who is twice my size and has been doing all that sort of thing for 15 years. But I was determined to show that sitting on my backside in front of a computer all my work-

ing life didn't mean I was a wimp. "I'll just get this path moved," I said. Nonchalantly I fitted my fingers under the edge of the first flagstone and pulled. At first I thought it was stuck down, then reality dawned. It was very heavy and I had let myself in for lifting at least 50 just like it. After the first 10 I'd worked out a way of shuffling the stones on their ends over the grass, in the way that *Zombie Teletubbies* might move. I'd also managed to stop myself gasping as if in the last throes of sexual ecstasy. After the paving stones, we moved the beds, shovelling and harrowing endless amounts of soil. I got so hot I stopped caring about Doug seeing my crinkly midriff in the full and unflattering light of day, and stripped to my bikini top. "You were quite right," beamed Doug. "It's not so bad. We'll have this done in no time. Here take this spade, it's bigger." I smiled and thought, "I'm just going to lie down and die, right now". But pride is a terrible thing. I didn't suggest a lunchbreak or burst into tears when I looked at Doug's watch and saw it was only 10 past 11. When he said we should stop to eat, I even said, "Oh, I'll just finish this first". I think after lunch my natural endurance cut in, you know the way they do when people have their limbs lopped off in battle and then walk 20km to the field hospital with their arm in a Tesco's carrier. We stripped turf on the new veg garden site. Or rather, Doug stripped it - a horrible job involving all the most painful aspects of lifting and bending - I stacked it

into a neat little yurt-like structure to rot down for compost. As the afternoon progressed I became more and more engrossed with perfecting the form of my yurt. Doug, having never shirked in his life, didn't understand what was going on. Finally at around six I was reduced to spiteful worm chipping to relieve my feelings when the wooden frame of the bed I was working on refused to be level. After half an hour of watching me stabbing at innocent invertebrates and swearing Doug came over and moved a small stone out of the way. Instantly the frame fell into place. I could have screamed. But I didn't. "Okay," said Doug, "moment of truth. If this last frame doesn't fit we're stuffed. I'll have to re-plot it all again." I just stood with my mouth open and my arms hanging while he lifted an equilateral triangle made of planks and the size of a tepee into the centre of the garden. "Vessss. Perffickk!" Ten minutes later we were in the bath and with two glasses of champagne inside me I was feeling a lot better. I even began to feel quite cocky when Doug fell asleep just as I was perking up. I had triumphed, proved myself fit for active service, demonstrated that working out wasn't just about vanity. But the proof of the fitness pudding is in the morning-after stiffness. My whole body throbbed and my bottom was so painful I had to take Neurofen to walk downstairs. Doug however was fine. "Yeah, gardening's the best burn workout there is," he said. "Gardeners, huh - buns of steel."

NETWORK

Where have all the innovations gone?

This year's Live 98 boasted plenty of rehashed technology but little that was genuinely ground-breaking. By Matthew Burgess

TICKETS FOR the Live 98 consumer technology show were being touted outside Earls Court last week just as they would be for an Oasis concert. Once inside the exhibition, though, another parallel was revealed: what was billed as the future was in reality nothing much more than a revamp of the recent past.

Live 98 seemed curiously subdued. There were few genuine innovations on display. The majority of products being smaller, cheaper, more efficient updates of their predecessors. Indeed, much of the show resembled an upmarket Tottenham Court Road electronics shop (without the surly staff) - high on the black box/fleeting light quotient but lacking in any genuine "Wow!" factor.

The most significant new technology at Live 98 was Digital TV, billed as "the biggest development since colour".

Rather than being another alternative to satellite and cable, digital TV is simply a new way of processing and trans-

mitting the broadcast signals. In order to receive these signals, however, you will need a decoder (set-top box), which will cost around £200, though digitally enabled sets are available for those who fancy splashing out on them.

For the TV and hi-fi buffs, 1998 will be remembered as the year of the flat.

The 1950s sci-fi dream has finally come true - televisions and loudspeakers can now be hung on the wall. Flat-screen TVs have been around as millionaire's playthings for a while now but are becoming slightly more accessible. They still weigh in at the top end of the price spectrum however.

Digital Versatile Disc (DVC) is not yet the CD/VHS killer of popular hype. Yes, you can store lots of information on a DVD. Yes, DVD films come with extra information on the disc (different languages, widescreen etc). However, until recordable DVD makes its way past Hollywood's anti-piracy lobby, it is little more than a re-

placement for Laser Disc. Top marks in the Home Entertainment Overkill stakes for Pioneer - their DVL-909 combines DVD with Laser Disc and Video CD in one (big) box.

One of the strangest hi-fi phenomena of the last year has been the resurgence of Mini Disc. Usually if a format is initially unsuccessful, it dies a death (Digital Compact Cassette), or finds a niche market (DAT). Mini Disc, however, has re-emerged on the back of a clever marketing campaign highlighting its status as a "Chic Thing". MD machines were everywhere, from Sharp's cute portables to Sony's in-car, six-disc monster.

Elsewhere, the buzzword was integration. TVs were PCs, mobile phones were PDAs, computers were home cinema systems. The Alpine stand played host to the ultimate multi-purpose device - a Range Rover transformed into a mobile entertainment centre - complete with Surround Sound, in-car navigation and screen-

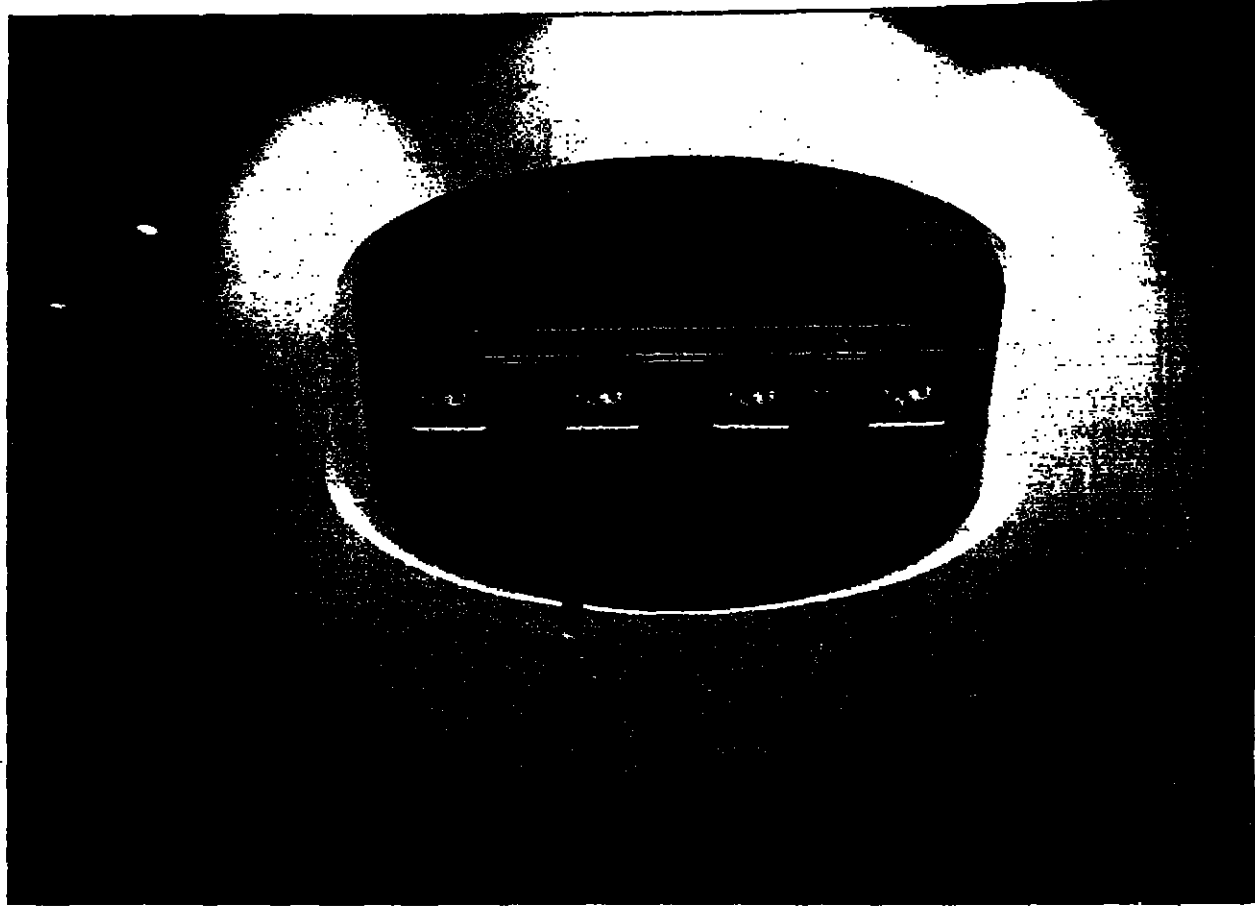
back TVs - great for subduing unruly kids on long journeys.

The Jeremy Clarkson Award for lust-inspiring inanimate object of the show goes to Sony for their super-sleek Vaio PCG-505G, an anorectically slender notebook PC that packs a 233MHz Pentium MMX processor, 32Mb RAM and DSD graphics into a sub-A5 package less than an inch thick.

Design kudos also to the gorgeous WM-EX7 Walkman, also from Sony (can these things get any smaller?), and Philips' sleek Nino 3000 handheld PC, but good looks were an exception, not the rule. Bland boxes abounded - it was almost impossible to tell the homogenous VCRs, hi-fi components and TV decoders apart.

Despite its billing as a new technology showcase, companies at Live 98 were not going to display their real future technology lest it put punters off buying this year's models.

It seems that Live 98's vision of the future is limited to the approach to Christmas.



Visitors make the rounds during Live 98 at Earls Court last week

Andrew Burman

A closed network is a contradiction in terms



Free-for-all breaks out on the Net

Dixons' launch of a free Internet service will force other UK ISPs to brush up their acts. By Paul Lavin

The Internet is becoming a free-for-all in the UK. While there may be as many definitions of "free" in the lexicon of Net marketers as there are in the mind of Bill Clinton, Dixons Group appears to have one that is close to the dictionary's. Its new Freeserve Internet service, launched last week, seems to be free of all charges except the price of a local telephone call, but there are inevitable exceptions.

"We are providing a full, usable Internet connection and service for individuals and small businesses and increasing the value of the Internet to those users with content," said Mark Danby, general manager of Freeserve Limited, part of Dixons Group. "All our subscribers have to pay for the price of a 0845 telephone call - the Internet service is free. The average monthly cost of an Internet account is somewhere near £12 plus the call. Freeserve represents a significant savings opportunity for British Internet users."

Historically, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) charged a set-up fee which could be as much as £50, and a monthly flat usage fee ranging from about £9 to nearly £20.

Online service providers such as AOL and CompuServe bill by the minute with a lower

monthly charge and no set up fee. They position their Internet service as incidental to the online content they provide.

Dixons' Freeserve offer includes a CD-Rom of software needed to sign on and access the service, an unlimited number of standard Internet e-mail addresses, free web space and unlimited connection time. Freeserve CDs will be available in 900 Dixons, Currys, PC World and The Link stores. The software only runs on Windows 95/98 and NT. Apple Macs and older PCs need not apply.

Telephone support, however, isn't free. While support files on the CD-Rom and web are available free, PC Mastercare will supply Freeserve's personal telephone support at a cost to callers of £1 per minute, something that is normally included in the monthly billing by most ISPs. Dixons expects that most experienced users will be able to connect to their service without technical support. Dixons estimates that chargeable support calls will last less than five minutes on average.

But will Dixons' move into the Internet market spell doom for other ISPs? Not necessarily. William Foel, managing director of UPS Networks, an ISP based in Essex, thinks the scheme is good news for the Internet in Britain. "Freeserve

will force ISPs to look for new ways to add value for their customers instead of just providing the equivalent of an Internet dial tone. Freeserve will help the Net grow faster and that's good for everybody."

As a result of Freeserve, the price of Net access in Britain will inevitably fall, according to Laurence Blackall, the chairman of the Internet Service Providers Association and CEO of the Internet Technology Group, which runs Global Internet. "Users will need to define what they want from their ISP in terms of the quality of service and support. Some users will go for a 'free' scheme and others will realise that there isn't any such thing as a free lunch," Blackall observed. Freeserve's revenue is expected to come from a combination of advertising on its site, and a rebate of a proportion of the money that the user pays for the 0845 call. These so-called telco kickbacks are said to be worth up to 20 percent of the cost of the call.

One other "free" Internet service - cfree@themailbox.uk - mails advertisements to its members to earn part of its crust. One wonders if Dixons will be able to resist using its subscribers' e-mail for promotions. One thing is certain, there are no free lunches here.

FEEDBACK

Janet should not censor students

Eva Pascoe's column on the restrictions placed on certain forms of expression by the Joint Academic Network ("The things Janet won't tell you", 21 September) is disturbing. It seems to me that one of the major functions of an academic computer network such as Janet is to encourage debate, not just between academics but between students.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I thought university was about encouraging debate and giving students the chance to forward their views on whatever issue engages their interest, regardless of how controversial those views may be. If students are deemed too sensitive to handle, let alone argue against, a few strongly voiced opinions on Janet, then as Pascoe quite rightly said, we will get the underdeveloped graduates we deserve.

In my experience, the Net

is the ideal place to develop debating skills. Lively debates often involve a clash of strongly held opinions and, inevitably, the adrenaline will flow as passions are aroused. If this is deemed to be unacceptable because it may cause "anxiety", then I fear for academic freedom and for free speech.

David Amis
kam76@diapipex.com

Eva Pascoe draws the correct assumptions on how "the art of censorship" is practiced today on the Internet (Network, 21 September). Illustrating how a Kurdish Freedom Movement web site was removed by a university server recently because of "pragmatic" reasons, she rightly draws the conclusion that technical considerations can often mask moral opposition to "problematic" content.

This is a trend that is on the increase, with more and more web sites being pulled for excuses of "copyright

infringement or contractual obligations", which, in fact, turn out to be Internet Service Providers acting on their perceived moral obligations to protect us from the "excesses" of the Internet.

Pascoe sees this as being problematic for university students being able to develop their critical faculties where anything "difficult" is removed. Unfortunately, this is not just an issue for students, but for all of us - unless you want the web to become like Channel 5!

Martyn Perks
martynp@easynet.co.uk

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BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

FOLLOWING A judge's ruling that the US government can go beyond the battle for the browser market and offer wider evidence of unfair competitive practices in its anti-trust case against Microsoft, attention has turned to allegations that the working relations between Microsoft and other companies went beyond co-operation and into the realm of collusion.

The Seattle Times reported last week allegations that, in a series of meetings between summer 1997 and April 1998, Microsoft tried to divide the market for media players with Apple Computer, and that a deal was proposed whereby Apple would abandon work on its core QuickTime technology in exchange for Microsoft supporting Apple's video-editing tools - a move Apple is reported to have described as "kissing the baby". Microsoft denies any attempts at trying to divide the market between itself and its former rival-turned business partner. It says the meetings were legal ways of trying to devise cross-licensing and technology-sharing arrangements. "Our discussions with Apple on streaming media technologies are the kinds of positive discussions that happen every day in the hi-tech industry, where companies outline their respective technologies and work together to ensure that their technologies will operate well together for consumers," Mark Murray, a Microsoft spokesman, said. "We did not attempt to divide the market with Apple or anyone else."

THE WHITE House last week agreed to support legislation to increase the number of foreign hi-tech professionals allowed into the United States, if employers agree to a series of assurances that protect US workers.

The number of temporary work visas will rise from 65,000 this year, to 115,000 next year and in 2000, dropping to 107,500 in 2001 and returning to 65,000 in 2002. Hi-tech companies employing temporary workers to address the disparity between jobs and those with the skills to fill them, will be subject to increased monitoring from the Labor Department and will face severe penalties if they fire US workers to hire foreign ones. Revenue from visa applications finance scholarships in maths, engineering and computer science.

PLANS FOR an airborne broadband wireless network came closer to realisation last week when Angel Technologies launched its High Altitude Long Operation (HALO) jet aircraft over the Mojave desert in California. The aircraft is designed to deliver telephone and Internet communications while flying in a fixed pattern above urban areas. "What we have done is put all the communications' capabilities of what might be a communications satellite 22,000 miles high... and put it 10 miles over a city," Peter Diamandis, Angel's CEO, said. HALO's data-relay equipment will provide a footprint of 50 to 75 miles for high-speed (up to 25 megabits per second) voice and data transmissions from its cruising altitude of 50,000ft. Signals will be stronger than those beamed from low-earth satellites, and will not be blocked by buildings and mountains, as is the case with transmissions from towers. Diamandis said that costs were lower than using satellites. One hundred planes could be built for \$700m (\$412m). The cost of launching the Iridium satellite network was \$4.4bn (\$2.6bn). By bypassing existing fibre-based communications networks, which charge access fees, Angel intends to deliver high-speed, low-cost communications, starting in Los Angeles in the year 2000.



Dr Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel: 'Our industry has an extraordinary amount of hype... It sets false expectations and confuses the consumer'

Neville Elder

The CEO without an ego

Intel's Craig Barrett considers himself first and foremost an engineer. He talks to Stephen Pritchard

THE COMPUTER industry has its share of larger-than-life personalities and fragile corporate egos. It is a business in which companies with strong figures attract attention out of all proportion to their market shares or bottom lines. It is a business where hype is something of a common currency.

Dr Craig Barrett is a man who dislikes hype. As chief executive of Intel, Dr Barrett heads one of the most powerful companies in a powerful industry. Information technology accounts for about half the growth of the entire US economy. But the management style of this 58-year-old engineer is in sharp contrast to the flamboyance of some of his peers and, indeed, to that of his immediate predecessor at Intel, Andy Grove.

This is not something that worries Dr Barrett. His 25-year career at Intel came after 10 years' teaching engineering at Stanford University. A textbook he wrote then is still in widespread use in American universities. Dr Barrett still identifies himself first and foremost, as an engineer, and Intel as an engineering company.

"I don't consider myself to be a professional businessman but an engineer who taught engineering," he explains. "I enjoy the technology, and moving the technology out into the marketplace. I enjoy competition, and I enjoy the pragmatic parts of business. Our industry has an extraordinary amount of hype: tall about developments which are going to replace the PC tomorrow or outlandish claims

about benchmarks. It sets false expectations and confuses the consumer."

Intel, though, has a far higher profile now than in any time in its history. The "Intel Inside" campaign has been an enormous success and played a significant part in the dominance of the Intel-Windows standard in the desktop computer marketplace. Dr Barrett, then chief operations officer at Intel, played a big part in that success.

"We are still an engineering company, but we have partially transformed ourselves into a marketing company," he says. "The Intel Inside campaign was one of the largest in the universe; that was not an engi-

Intel now has a far higher profile than at any time in its history

neering company-type programme. But we are still grounded in the technology."

The technology, and the possibilities it brings, accounts for much of Dr Barrett's personal motivation. "I love the technology, and I get to work with a great bunch of people. It is fun. If it wasn't fun, I would be fly-fishing in Montana," he admits.

Seeking refuge on his Montana ranch would certainly have been the easier option. Craig Barrett has taken on the chief executive's job at

a tough time for Intel. Revenues are flat and the computer chip market is far from healthy. "Growth is our biggest challenge, both in existing and new markets," Dr Barrett admits. "We have had 18 months of flat revenues. We need the PC market to grow." New applications, such as digital imaging or electronic shopping, are areas Dr Barrett expects will drive people to buy their first PCs, and persuade existing users that they need to upgrade.

As a company, Intel invests millions of dollars in research into new markets for computers and computer chip technology. Moore's Law - the idea that chip performance doubles every 18 months - is holding true more than 30 years after Gordon Moore, one of Intel's founders, first conceived it. But faster chips come at a price. A microchip factory is more than 10 times as expensive than a decade ago. Intel estimates the plants to build its next generation of chips will cost more than \$10bn. The company will have to sell huge numbers of chips to recoup that cost.

Between the wars, US car manufacturers reacted to flat demand for their wares by introducing new models far more frequently. New designs were calculated to make older cars look dated, and spur motorists to buy a replacement, even if their old cars still ran well. The idea was successful, if cynical. Computer users could be forgiven for thinking that the PC industry is using similar tactics today.

Ever-more-complex software demands increasingly powerful com-

puters; users are forced to upgrade their programs to stay compatible, even if their old packages still work. They then need faster computers to run the new software, but gain little from the process themselves.

This is not an argument that finds favour with Dr Barrett. Last year, Intel invested some \$300m in new ventures; around half the money was spent outside the US. Some of this goes into new technologies which Intel can incorporate into its chips, motherboards or networking hardware. Some goes to find and develop new uses for computers.

Intel, for example, has invested significant sums in video conferencing, and it is one of the key partners in Blue Tooth, an industry group developing wireless networking for devices from mobile phones to laptop PCs. "We try to move the technology forward," Dr Barrett says.

"To a certain extent, the challenge is to find new uses for the technology, to ensure it is absorbed into the marketplace. We eat our products as fast as we make them: we spend a lot of time looking for new uses for our technology, to keep our internal growth growing."

Electronic commerce is one area Dr Barrett has high hopes for. Faster Internet connections and better graphics will make online shopping a far more attractive prospect for consumers. It also soaks up processing power. Nor are new applications the only motor for growth. We are working our computers harder, and using them for more tasks at once. This is for both

visible applications such as word processing or surfing the Web, and for background tasks such as scanning for viruses, compressing images, or running software that detects a fault in a PC before it happens. Then there are demanding applications such as games.

"If you are over 15 years old, you may think what am I going to do with that performance?" Dr Barrett says. "If you are under 15, you never ask that. If you play interactive games, you will always want more power."

Interactive devices are another area where Intel expects to see growth. Digital TV sets, handheld computers and smart mobile

will be in homes.

Many of those same homes might buy a set-top box, too.

"I am firmly of the belief that when you sit down in front of the TV set, you want to be entertained, or catch the news. You may not want to be terribly interactive," he says. "I think the PC and the TV will co-exist. If you want to be entertained, you sit in front of the TV set. If you want to be interactive, you will do that with a PC."

Intel's record in the low-cost computing business, though, has not been good. The market for PCs costing less than \$1,000 is one of the fastest growing, yet last year Intel found itself caught without a low-cost chip, and rivals, particularly AMD, closing the technology gap. Intel faced a fall in its market share.

The company reacted with the Celeron microprocessor. Celeron is now in its second, more powerful incarnation, which has been well-received by PC makers. Intel is making up for lost ground. Dr Barrett believes advanced technology and good engineering will keep his company ahead - and extend the power of the computers on our desks.

"Ultimately, the only way to stay ahead is to invest in the technology and bring it into the marketplace," says Dr Barrett. "We started out being lucky: our architecture was chosen by IBM for its first PC. But since then we have invested our R&D dollars. If you stop investing you'll become one of the crowd."

Faster Internet connections will make online shopping a far more attractive idea

phones are volume businesses that could be far bigger than the market for conventional PCs. Intel now has a foothold in that business: it owns the StrongARM family of low-cost, low-power processors originally developed by Advanced RISC Machines in the UK.

The market for consumer interactive devices is important, but Dr Barrett does not subscribe to the view that it will replace the PC. He expects to see one billion connected PCs within a few years, and many

That's more information than I needed, Ken

THE CLINTON affair has done more than merely paralyse one of the globe's biggest economies at a time when economists around the world are getting a little nervous.

Bill's troubles, or more precisely Kenneth Starr's "referral" (the Starr Report is technically allied), have brought a lot of attention to the Internet and the way it can be used. And some of those uses - well, Houston, I think we have a problem here.

This has been a crystallising event, from anyway. When President Kennedy was killed, we American ran to TV for the news, and helped in the process that TV had really replaced newspapers as our medium of choice.

When Princess Diana died last year, I am many others ran to our browser, and confirmed that the Net had become the new medium of choice, at least among computer owners.

When the Starr Report was published on the Net, I stopped cold. I didn't zip over to the Library of Congress website to take in all the creepy details. Like at least a few other Americans, I knew enough, indeed, too much, already.

Clinton had been stupid. Monica Lewinsky had been ratted out by a friend, and a frustrated Starr seems to have resorted to a smear campaign to justify the \$40m (£24m) his office has spent investigating the President.

The realms of salacious details that Starr seemed to think was fit for consumption by the general populace, weren't really something I wanted to deal with. That a Republican would publish this stuff on the Net struck me as, at least, a little disingenuous. The Library of Congress is not a site that is normally blocked by parental filtering software.

After all, Republicans were big supporters of the

Communications Decency Act last year, under whose guidelines Ken Starr, his staff and webmasters at the Library of Congress, could have been sent to federal prison. At least some Americans would have objected to the lurid and extensive sexual descriptions in the report.

For most of my life, the public media I look at and listen to have been like a moderated newsgroup. Newspapers and mainstream broadcasters have editors who filter and prioritise the news before it gets to me. Before the advent of the Net, the chances of something as sexually explicit as the Starr Report being offered in mainstream media would have effectively been zero.

Even today, most broadcasters were reluctant to read most of the passages in the Starr Report on the air, although many US newspapers published much of it, sex and all, on the grounds that it was public



CHRIS GULKER

When the Starr Report was published on the Net, I stopped cold

already via the Internet, and Americans had a right to know.

But this was more like the alt. newsgroups, the unmoderated ones, where robot servers publish anything, no matter how stupid, salacious or brilliant it

might be - completely uncensored by an editor's judgement.

To me, the Starr Report reeks of a political hit job - and an expensive one, at that - cloaked as a independent investigation. Nowhere in this document do I see evidence of high crimes against the republic. Stupidity? Sure. Crimes? No.

Yet, thanks at least in part to the Internet, this document has, at the least, altered the course of history, and effectively shut down the machinery of the US government. I have to wonder what the implications are in an era where media and technology seem to be changing the balance of personal freedoms and responsibilities so clearly spelled out and protected by documents like the US Constitution.

Starr used the Net to publish a document that might well have been withheld from most other media. Some cynics and Democrats would say that that

would have been a good thing. But I'm starting to wonder if it really was the best thing. If only oblique references had been made from traditional media, many people might have assumed that there was more fire than smoke in the Starr Report. Rumour would have been rampant.

The sordid reality, cigars and all, let us all be judges of just how hideous these crimes were. The report made public, for all the agony and soul-searching it wrought, allowed Americans, and, indeed, the world, to form their own judgement.

The scariest thing, for me, has been the effect on privacy. While most of us are not famous enough that our sexual adventures are likely to interest anyone outside a small circle of neighbours and co-workers, the Clinton affair has certainly set a new standard for "outing" normally private behaviour. Most of us don't expect intimate

details of our sex lives to be published where the whole world can see them.

People are already vulnerable to irresponsible attacks on the Net: a number of individuals and companies have suffered because of unfounded, anonymous rumours, circulated via e-mail. In the wake of Ken Starr, nothing (except boredom) stops you, or anyone else with Net access, from publishing the Chris Gulker sex report.

While that document is not likely to be widely read, and nor are its authors likely to advance their agenda, it would still be awfully annoying and embarrassing to me. Lacking a censoring medium, anyone could attack anyone else. Given a little bad timing, this could be personally inconvenient.

But, maybe, if I really did it, it's just better that I have to face the music.

cg@gulker.com

Boys don't cry, they send e-mail

The Net is giving troubled teens somewhere to go for help. One person they turn to is Matthew Whyman, AOL's agony uncle

It's been a year since I took up the post as AOL's first agony uncle. In that time, however, I haven't received a single letter. My filing cabinet, indexed from Aberrations to Zits, remains empty. Meanwhile, I continue to deal with problems by the parcel-load from Bliss, the teenage girls magazine, who hire me as their Love Doctor.

So why hasn't AOL asked me to finish my glass of brandy and hang up my smoking jacket? In a word, e-mail. Each week, I get more than 250 pleas for help from switched-on but stressed-out teens. Welcome to the paperless problem page.

Online, the questions range across a huge spectrum, reflecting the complexities of life for young people at the end of the 1990s. All the standards are there: sex and sexuality; friends and foes; life at school and home; drink and drug-related difficulties. Some of the questions highlight a sophisticated understanding of certain areas, while others expose huge knowledge gaps. Yet the most striking aspect of the AOL service is that more than 50 per cent of the e-mails are from boys.

Until now, the agony column has been a strictly female preserve. It's the staple part of any young women's magazine. There, readers learn about themselves through other people's grief. Whether it's love, life, sex or body worries, the mags have got it covered. Visit any school and you'll find a gaggle of girls gathered around the latest copy of *Bliss*, *Sugar*, *Mizz*, *More* or *J17*. Often they use the issues raised by the agony pages as a springboard for discussion, and seize the chance to talk intimately while the lads are out playing football. Which is where the problem for boys comes into focus.

The worst thing about being male is our inability to express emotions. From an early age we're told to be brave and not cry, while our role models tend to be archetypal hard men like Arnie or Sly. For a young lad to ask for help or advice is like an admission of weakness. Our fathers are often unable or unwilling



Matthew Whyman: 'If you're an adolescent male, ill-at-ease with communicating on a face-to-face level, then the Net is the perfect medium' Kalpesh Lathigra

to talk, while turning to our mates is an open invitation to be ridiculed. Instead, we bottle things up, then run off our pent up energies by booting a ball about. And worse.

In 1996, 785 people aged 15-24 committed suicide in the UK, of which 80 per cent were male. When things get tough for lads, half the bat-

tle for them is knowing how to ask for help.

So why has the AOL agony page proved such a magnet for mixed-up young men? What is it about cyberspace that encourages them to unburden their deepest fears and worries? Most significantly, boys tend to log on alone; shut off from

the influence of their mates. This renders the Internet free of peer pressure. Lads can ask any range of questions without fear of a backlash, being laughed at or ridiculed.

Throughout history men have formed a strong relationship with machines. They understand computers, speak their language, feel

comfortable in their company. The isolated environment is a liberation for them, not a catalyst for social ruin. If you're an adolescent male, ill-at-ease with communicating on a face-to-face level, then the Net is the perfect medium.

Another big online lad-lure is the anonymity. In cyberspace, nobody

knows who you are. Consequently, during AOL's monthly UKLive agony auditorium, I find myself faced with what appears to be some kind of virtual gangland gathering. "HammerHead", "Massive", "Speedcore", and "Kill24" - row upon row of menacing-sounding monickers pitch up for a session, and often stay the hour.

It's only when I click on their personal profiles, however, that little pert, 13, from Surrey emerges, who has invariably come for reassurance that he hasn't got a tiny penis, or ask if there's a helpline he can go to because he thinks he might be gay. By hiding behind their mael screen names, boys are free to ask sensitive questions without being identified. The girls enjoy it, too, e-mailing both parties find out more about the opposite sex. They also get their questions answered straight away. Something which appeals deeply to the male psyche - the need for instant gratification.

As for the nature of the questions boys ask, generally I find they are quite similar to those voiced by girls. From mental health to media myths, body image and relationship problems, there is not much to distinguish between the sexes. What boys tend to wait until things are really bad. While a young woman might write in because her boyfriend has turned against her, a boy will only speak out after two or three terms of intense bullying.

Problems like these are rarely solved in a few sharp sentences. Often more intimate counselling is required. In this respect, AOL's agony page and monthly auditorium work best as a referral service. If a young person has come to the Internet for help, then I feel it's not appropriate to put them in touch with organisations offering specialist advice within the same medium.

The Samaritans - <http://www.samaritans.org.uk> - and The Sift <http://www.sift.org.uk> - are both keenly aware of the Web's appeal and provide invaluable online help information and support.

Ultimately, as more young people find their lives hard-wired to the Net, so we should become more aware of its potential to help them deal with their problems.

AOL subscribers can access Matthew Whyman's problem page at keyword: STRESSED OUT or e-mail whymanuk@aol.com

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MY TECHNOLOGY

I feel totally at home on the Net

Dave Stewart
tells how he
has found new
harmony in
cyberspace

THE INTERNET is the first place I've ever felt that I really belonged. Unlike lots of people, who will only concentrate on one thing at a time, I take great pleasure in working on a lot of projects at the same time. The Internet brings everything I do to one place.

I have always been interested in new technology. The Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams" was made on an eight-track synthesiser and it encouraged and showed many people how easy it was to make music in their bedrooms. My current favourite mixing machine is one that you can vary the sound when you move your hand over it. So it has an immediacy. I use it to put sound effects to films I have made because the tension and volume can be adjusted easily. And it costs under £1,000.

Even 10 years ago music technology would have cost so much. As a recording artist, you were constantly worrying; if you went over time it was costing x-amount per hour for the studio, then you had to have the instruments, speakers, distribution and record deal.

The most innovative element on my web site, the Mixman "studio", was directed with this in mind. The technology was developed by Res Rocket and is absolutely amazing. What we have here is a virtual studio, where people from all around the world can log on and interact with other people making music.

For instance, I can sign in and decide to work with someone who is in Guernsey. I listen to what they are doing and then add what I would like to that track. We spent ages getting all the samples absolutely right for the studio, they are all taken from the Sly-Fi album and you can remix, rename and remodel to your own desire. Of course, when I listen I can get ideas also. But I keep my signing-in name secret, otherwise the system would get overloaded!



Dave Stewart: 'I don't ever feel that technology limits me'

Emma Boom

This week I made a record live on the Internet. We enlisted the help of collaborating fans and created the fastest record ever to be released - I think it was downloaded within about six minutes. We did a live set from a church in Crouch End and at eight o'clock we opened the site and within seconds all six streams were completely jammed. It was incredibly successful. We are currently working on the idea of a virtual tour.

The design of the site was very important and I had a lot of input with that. I didn't want it to be like many sites, where the links are flat and unap-

pealing. So I came up with the idea of the rotating cube. It is immediately striking when you get to the home page; the cube sides are the different elements of the website. The video show has people such as Bob Dylan, Sinead O'Connor, Natalie Imbruglia, conceptual pieces and the Mixman page.

I take a digital camera around with me and then all I have to do is plug it in to a machine and download the images on to the Internet. Sly-Fi is like CNN for the underground, but it's more of a personal postcard. Instead of news items it will feature things that people will never see anywhere else.

People are continually introducing me to new pieces of technology. I don't ever feel that technology limits me. I have never looked at it in that way.

Take the camera, for example, I learned how to use that myself through taking photographs and seeing what effects could be achieved. I see computer technology as the same. You can look for what it doesn't do, but I prefer to explore its possibilities.

Sly-Fi Network (<http://www.davestewart.com>)

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER ROGER

The battle for industry standards is joined

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

George Olsen is leading the fight to get browser makers to play by the rules

IF I HAD a pound for every hour of extra development time it took me to make sure my clients' web sites ran on the various versions of Internet Explorer and Navigator, I would be much poorer than I am today. You see, I actually get more than a pound - a lot more - for every hour I spend doing just that. Creating sites for the multitude of browsers on the market is like the weather; everybody complains but no one does anything about it.

That is until George Olsen and some of his buddies, including some of the top names in the industry, started the Web Standards Project (<http://www.webstandards.org>), an independent organisation devoted to the ideal that all browsers should adhere to one set of standards. George is a Web architect at 2-Lane Media (<http://www.2lm.com/>), where he has experienced the terrors of cross-browser coding first-hand.

Jason Cranford Teague How did the Web Standards Project get started? George Olsen When Internet Explorer 5.0 beta came out in mid-June it still lacked full support for Cascading Style Sheets-1, which has been a [World Wide Web Consortium] specification since December 1996. Yet Microsoft was adding new features. Likewise, Netscape was adding bells and whistles to Netscape 4.5 but admitted they were not sure they'd have full support for CSS-1 in 5.0.

Glenn Davis [of Project Cool] raised this issue on a mailing list and I decided I was "mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore". So I e-mailed Glenn and about two dozen other

mentioning that both companies are part of the World Wide Web Consortium and had a hand in developing the standards, so we think it is reasonable for them to incorporate them into their browsers. JCT Doesn't this subvert competition and innovation? GO Supporting standards is not about spanking vendors for introducing new innovations. There's nothing wrong with innovation - just with failing to support existing standards.

JCT What do you make of the Opera browser, which pitches itself as a browser that adheres strictly to the standards? GO While no browser currently offers full support for current W3C standards, Opera has done a good job of paying attention to the issue and Opera endorsed WSP's efforts shortly after our launch.

Opera does claim to support HTML 3.2, which I haven't verified myself, but it's still not fully supporting CSS-1. I'm told that their current private beta has good support for these, however, I haven't seen the beta myself.

JCT What is the WSP doing to encourage browser manufacturers to adhere to the standards? GO We've been talking with representatives from Microsoft, Netscape and other browser makers who are interested in working with us on the issue. WSP has set up several groups to detail the specific problems that currently exist in CSS-1, Document Object Model (DOM), XML and other areas, and push for getting these resolved. WSP is also encouraging

developers and programmers to help with Netscape's effort to debug their NLayout Engine, which is intended to make their browser 100 per cent compliant with CSS-1 and DOM - and which may or may not make it into Navigator 5.0.

We plan to continue building awareness about the issue and keep up the public pressure. JCT Do you see the 5.0 browsers (Navigator and IE) embracing the standards being set down today?

GO It's our hope that browser makers will realise that it's in their mutual self-interest to have full support for Cascading Style Sheets-1, DOM and XML. Otherwise, developers will probably shun them - just as they do today - because few clients are willing to pay for building multiple versions of a site. JCT What other problems will we encounter?

GO The incompatibility problem will only increase as browsers move beyond the desktop into televisions, PDAs, and devices we haven't even thought of yet. The W3C specs open up the possibility of being able to develop a site once that would be able to be used on all of these devices. But with the current patchwork support for standards it's not really possible to do right now. So far, we've certainly gotten Microsoft's and Netscape's attention and they both say they're committed to supporting standards. We're now watching to see if their deeds match their words.

E-mail comments or queries to indy_webdesign@mindspring.com

WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

A live killing on the Web

Africam
<http://www.africam.mweb.co.za/>

First Jennicam, now giraffecam, leopardcam and zebra-cam. The Africam online watering hole displays daily wildlife action from a game reserve in Kruger National Park, South Africa, and has recently claimed the first lion kill - a hapless buffalo - to go out live over the Net. Two webcams are employed, updated every 30 seconds. One is static, while the other is carted around by park rangers in pursuit of "suitable animal events". Viewers who stumble across one of these by themselves can capture the image and mail it back for display at the site: addicts can receive e-mail alerts when an elephant is about to give birth or a couple of particularly endearing wildebeest decide it is time for a drink. A fascinating site where the animals are seen in the wild, on their own terms, though true-to-the-authentic safari experience, nothing happens much of the time.

NextScribe Studios
<http://www.nextscribe.org>
For some years the Benedictine scribes of the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, New Mexico, have operated a successful media production house. This new offshoot is an investment and recruitment pitch for a



separate high-end facility dedicated to online evangelism. Brother Mary Aquinas Woodworth seeks backing in the region of \$5m for his crusade, but plans to use this to take issue with the big boys, listing Bill Gates and Disney as "competitors of the word of God" on the Net. Merging an intense spirituality with cyberspeak, the plans include an online monastic liturgy being developed with IBM and a facility for worldwide interactive prayer with the monks. The emphasis is on the Net's potential for the "whole person", though some of the long-term research sounds a little worrying: "The Artificial Intelligence Project will build spiritually Wise Agents that can interact with users, and will include computerised interpretation of vocal and facial expression to increase sensitivity of interaction." So far, all of this exists merely in text outline: would-be recruits should bring a huge leap of faith and



a working knowledge of VRML. The Saatchi and Saatchi Award for Innovation in Communication <http://www.saatchi-saatchi.com/> A cerebral site in more ways than one, with a Day-Glo, pop-art human brain, complete with brain-scanner navigation motif, displaying the various clever contenders for the Saatchis' \$100,000 prize. The 11 finalists' bright ideas are tantalisingly displayed and include a hand-less computer mouse using a movement-sensitive headband and "clicked" by means of eyelid power; and self-adjusting spectacles for users to correct their vision. In among all the socially conscious ingenuity can be found a splendidly useless three-dimensional alphabet, designed to "challenge Western concepts of reading and writing", as indeed it does: a normal font is rotated into 3D form and

emerges looking like a packet of custom-modified Rolos. The winner will be decided at the end of next month.

J Track Satellite Tracking
<http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/eatime/track/>
Worried about space junk? This site helps you keep a wary eye on your favourite orbital objects. The progress of the Hubble Space Telescope, Mir and hundreds of satellites - including, for nostalgists, Telstar - is charted against a map of the world, with altitude and position co-ordinates regularly updated and the map modifiable according to weather and visibility data. This Nasa educational project is just as much a Java showoff project, culminating in a 3D model of the earth which can be rotated or even flipped on its axis while IntelSat and the rest continue their - with luck - imperturbable courses. Another page, J-Pass, proves a difficult download but offers localised, earthbound perspectives on the night sky showing where satellite trails may be visible to binoculars or the naked eye.

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For an application form, please telephone Roseanne Richardson on 0171 332 1919 (CVs only are not acceptable).

For an informal discussion or further information on this post, please telephone Tim Omsby on 0171 332 3984, or Patricia Williams on 0171 332 3152 or Patricia Williams on 0171 332 1367.

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For an application form, please telephone Roseanne Richardson on 0171 332 1919 (CVs only are not acceptable).

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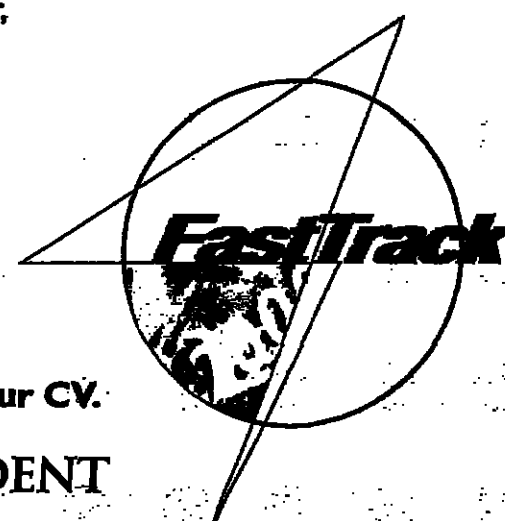
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2013/10/26

Bewitched by a magical singer

She looks like Elizabeth Montgomery and sounds like Joni Mitchell. But the diminutive Dar Williams is her own woman. By Glyn Brown

Folk-rock singer Dar Williams and her best friend and road manager, the fantastically named Bellamy Pailthrop, are a patient pair. Not only are the two women negotiating their way, together with a guitar, across a great swathe of Europe so that Williams can play her acoustic show each and every night, but they are putting up with me for part of the journey.

When I joined them last Monday in Belgium, they had just shuttled down from Frankfurt, and were looking tired, though not as tired as they are going to be after Holland, Hamburg, Munich, Zurich, Dublin and several shows in the UK.

Both live in Massachusetts, Pailthrop a good-looking amazon and Williams, a tiny, frail and unassuming 30-year-old woman in flat boots and glasses. She is lethally bright and optimistically witty but, after a long drive and three local interviews - "I should just about be able to do this show before I collapse," she says - you wonder how she will muster the energy for the job at Brussels' Ancienne Belgique.

It is not a problem. On stage alone in the darkened club, she has unleashed her blonde hair, ditched the specs - but Miss Williams! you're beautiful - and looks rather like Elizabeth Montgomery from *Bewitched*. She says her guitar playing is "elementary", but it does not seem that way; her three-octave voice is sweet, full and best compared to Joni Mitchell's.

As for the songs - well, they can make you catch your breath. They deal with everything from friends to love to the evil influence of the Wal-Mart chain on the staidie community. As she begins a number, you can hear her whisper to herself: "Here I go". But that is not vulnerability; she is a droll raconteur and, by the end of the evening, the audience is roaring for more of her music, self-deprecating quips and Gilda Radner-style gurning.

That was Monday. On Tuesday we were in Pailthrop's silver hatchback heading toward Amsterdam, which should be a simple 200km skip. Williams and I are on map-reading duty, but deep in conversation about Gary Oldman, who appears on billboards everywhere advertising clothes, when we miss a vital turn.

"Oh man, girls!" roars Pailthrop, incensed. Back on track, we aim for Antwerp, which we should skirt on the ring road. We are following the last hotel's instructions, using a map bought from them; so why has the motorway they suggested disappeared? The map turns out to be 20 years old, and before we know it

we are lost amid bakeries, bicycles and viciously hooting cars.

"Let's relax," says Williams, the soul of calm. "This gives us a chance to see if we'd ever like to come back to Antwerp." Someone bellows as we crunch across a tramline. "And I think the answer's no."

We emerge bound inexorably for Rotterdam, a serious detour when the sound check is at 4pm. Williams, however, keeps us entertained with highlights from her role as a singing potato in a student film, and we cruise down the E106 all joining in the chorus: "Hey! Mr French Fry, waddyba know."

Unbelievably, we make Amsterdam's Paradiso Club with time to spare, and this is where Williams and I sit down to talk at length. It is also where it becomes clear that her equanimity has been a hard-won thing. Born in the New York suburb of Chappaqua, Williams was the youngest of three competitive sisters in a bookish household.

Left with the things the other two were not that great at, she took a religion and theatre course at college and, almost predictably, developed clinical depression.

It had to be her sister who noticed. "I asked her: 'Um, does everyone think a lot about killing themselves?' And she said: 'Oh God, we've got a basket case'."

Williams found herself in therapy, and it worked.

"Depression gives you the idea that your own agenda is not important, and it's amazing how badly you'll take care of yourself," she says. "Not only do you feel inferior, you feel so unentitled to a normal life, you don't allow yourself the benefit of your usual coping mechanisms."

A grin. "So if I burn my breakfast now, I realise I have to do a lot of self-maintenance around not turning it into a grand trauma, part of the string of failures that has been my whole life."

These days, she is happy to send up her weaker moments and not worry if some people think she is nuts, because it might help others realise that they are not.

Resurfacing, Williams turned from theatre to her childhood friend, the guitar.

She sang in Boston's coffee shops, toured relentlessly and in 1995 brought out a CD, *The Honesty Room*, full of stories about punk angels, Mark Rothko paintings and one particularly tender track, "You're Aging Well", about a girl who repaints knuckle-rapping street signs on the road to old age with the message: "It always starts here..."

Mortal City, which appeared the following year, is deeper and more passionate. It features the standout

track "As Cool As I Am", a crowd-pleaser which, when played live, has men applauding on their feet.

This is odd, because the track is about a girl whose boyfriend cannot stop mentioning the beauty of other women, including her friends - so she leaves him because he is making her hate them.

"That happened to me, but I wrote it for a friend," she says.

"Her man would say, hey, I'm just the kinda guy who likes breasts like this, or hips like this, and it's too bad you have that body, honey. At one point, he said: 'well, you're not conventionally attractive', and that was bizarre, because she really was sickeningly beautiful."

"Then I met someone, and the same symptoms began. I told him a woman, a performer, was quite threatening for me and he said: 'Yeah, and she is so sexy'. He said: 'I wish you could find out the thing that she does, because she's really so alluring on stage'."

She laughs. "Oh Gaaah. It's like, why don't you find a way of being human? Then he said: 'You know, I think it would be great if you were a little more aware of your clothes'."

"At first I thought, maybe this is the kind of tough love that's gonna help me, but my stomach was in knots. 'Eventually I said: 'I think we're gonna break up'. He told me: 'I could not agree more, you're much too sensitive'."

She stops chuckling, sobers up. "But this guy, I broke his heart. See, how do you make a good-looking woman stay? You tell her she's ugly, so she'll think she can't get a better prospect. And it works the other way. Women do it, too."

There is a new CD, just out, called *The End of Summer* - a fuller-sounding outing, with a band, a rockier feel, and Williams's developing voice heading for Emmylou Harris territory. The honesty is still around; there is even a debt song about therapy - "Oh, how I loved everybody else when I finally got to talk so much about myself."

At this point, the door is thrown open, and Pailthrop marches in to say we have to move the van, and there is no hot water in the shower, and the mobile will not recharge. Williams puts on her glasses and says: "Fine, here's what we do..."

The End of Summer is out now on Razor & Tie Records. Dar Williams appears at Bristol Fiddler's (0117-929 9008) on 30 Sept; Dublin Whelan's on 2 Oct; London Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4201/4242) on 3 Oct; Edinburgh La Belle Arrière (0141-287 5511) on 5 Oct; Chester, Telford Warehouse (01244-390909) on 6 Oct.



Dar Williams: her songs deal with everything from love to the evil influence of the Wal-Mart chain

C Taylor Crothers

Songs for a nobody

YOU MEAN you have never heard of Opal Lorbini? Same here. It could be because the supposed songwriting prodigy, said to have flourished at the death of the Sixties never existed.

He was invented for this one-off performance by Jonathan Stone - a former trainee pig farmer turned artistic chameleon.

Stone's collaborators were some of rock's most respected musicians "and Lorbini's biggest fans", according to the programme.

They included David Catlin Birth (Robbie Williams's bassist) and Amanda Kramer from the divine-melodious 10,000 Maniacs - her mouth set in a pinched and plummy smile.

Stone orchestrated the concert in a deadpan manner, introducing songs by recounting major events in the bogus master's life.

Stone charted Lorbini's progress from his birth in Upper Silesia to his vigil in a hut in Scotland, where he was meant to have written his finest songs inspired by drugs and Ambrosia rice pudding.

Only once in his role as master of ceremonies did Stone break into

MUSIC
THE LOST LAST SONGS
OF OPAL LORBIN
PURCELL ROOMS
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a smile. This was after he claimed that Lorbini had been inspired by the rhythm of a Carpathian folk dance. Laughter.

He looked at the stage and blurted: "It's true."

When singing, Stone found a force which belied his spare frame, and projected mock menace. At first he suggested a peeved Estonian crooner mocked out in the warm-up beats of the Eurovision Song Contest. By the third song Stone had taken on a sullen Nick Cave aura. Towards the end he called to mind Radovan Karadzic pointing and raving.

Throughout, the lyrics were virtually incomprehensible: "Vorsprung technik hup hup hup" was about as lucid as it got.

Some of the audience laughed; others stared with what looked like touched admiration as if they

were witnessing Dylan; and some couples cuddled up in reaction to the quieter songs.

The illusion of serious artistic endeavour was helped by the musicians' virtuosity. They gave the impression they could play anything from garage to Grieg. They tended to settle for foot-tapping melody, even performing the Lorbini version of "Get It On". Every now and then, to keep us alert and reflect Lorbini's episodes of derangement, So Blime would judder and slew into bouts of outrageous cacophony.

Even so, as a whole the hoax did not stand out as extraordinary in the current pre-millennium craze, perhaps because it resembled David Bowie's recent phoney artist scam too strongly.

At times it also seemed rather pointless. But partly it served as an excuse for a liberating display of surrealism in a solemn environment and it was also an attempt to expose our pretensions.

And when it was all over the audience responded with remarkably earnest applause.

DAVID WILSON

Shouts from the rooftop

IT ISN'T what we hoped for. A large crowd has snaked their way to a usually closed-off roof on the South Bank, on the promise of "an alternative tour of London" from *Lights Out for The Territory's* caustic, visionary author Ian Sinclair. It's the first night of a "Festival of Drifting", named for the situationist slogan "drifting with purpose", and arranged by US musicians LaBradford, who see the term as closer to their aims than the "post-rock" tag they usually suffer.

No writer could be more attuned to drift than Sinclair, his torrent of words always in the service of stalking London; even better, he's brought an unannounced guest, Michael Moorcock, whose *Mother London* may be the city's finest fiction.

But, on reaching the roof, we find a fixed performance-space waiting. This "alternative tour" will be no Pied Piper journey. The background, an empty apartment block, ignores the sweep of the Thames, mere yards away. A screen runs footage from a moving car. But any excursions will have to be mental, the product of nothing more than writers reading.

MUSIC
IAN SINCLAIR, MICHAEL MOORCOCK AND LABRADFORD
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
ROOF
LONDON

Sinclair starts first. Looking like a less grotesque Alistair Sim, he reads with the rhythmic emphasis of the poet he began as, till he relaxes into his text, hunching over it as if at the starting blocks, running with the words of a cursed Irish poet, then a doomed criminal as he drifts towards death. His main purpose, it transpires, is to introduce Moorcock "I rather felt as if I had grabbed Charles Dickens by the elbow," he says of the older author. It's a comparison Moorcock's best work deserves, and one his big, bearded presence encourages. But he harumphs it off, and reads in a voice a little like David Bellamy. He touches on the night's theme, describing rivers of language that can't be fixed. Then he's detailing a bare-knuckle fight in nearby South Lon-

don so brutal one fighter's knucklebones rake a face like razors. Moorcock shoves his words out and dares crude volume to go with these coarse sensations. "WE ARE THE MOB!" he booms and looks pleased, as if hoping to shake his city, across the clear night air.

Then LaBradford themselves appear, intending to close the evening with musical drift. Their concerts are notoriously non-visual, so much so that when I first arrive, and hear taped music escaping from the empty stage, I think it could be the performance. It might as well be. The trio sit still, offering no distraction. A Badalamenti-like synth becomes the rush you might hear trapped in an air-duct; analogue trip-hammers and crackles escalate in volume; there's a hum like a space-age nerve centre. But the drifting, subversive possibilities the writers who preceded them indicated for this setting are absent. Instead, I feel trapped on the roof with their music. More than half the audience escape to stray corners. It's a drift LaBradford probably approve of.

NICK HASTED

The passenger is always right

AIRPORTS HAVE this in common with opera houses: we pretend that what we're there for is perfectly normal, when it's nothing of the sort. Both are fantasy zones that we pass through in the hope of transformation. And sometimes it happens.

Airport and opera house come together in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*, premiered by Glyndebourne Touring Opera last Thursday. April de Angelis's libretto takes us to the heart of the modern airport, the transit lounge, where nine characters wait for something to change their lives. The Refugee (Christopher Robson) has made the lounge his home; Bill (Richard Coxon) and Tina (Mary Piazas) think a holiday will repair

OPERA
FLIGHT
GLYNDEBOURNE

their marriage; the Older Woman (Nuala Willis) awaits the plane bringing her holiday romance back to her; Minskman (Steven Page) and heavily pregnant Minskwoman (Anne Mason) are about to emigrate. Stewardess (Ann Taylor) and Steward (Garry Magee) rut randily. Above them hovers the coldly mysterious controller (Claron McFadden), controlling little, while Immigration Officer (Richard van Allan) threatens to shatter everyone's dreams.

The first thing to say about Dove's

treatment is that it was rapturously received, which doesn't happen every day with new works. No doubt Richard Jones's unexpectedly sober production helps, telling the story plainly but with enough wit to keep the laughter bubbling, while Nicky Gillibrand's realistically spacious sets switch easily between interior and exterior. Dove's score, as we've come to expect from this acutely theatrical composer, never lacks invention: the witty way he orchestrates the "bing-bong" preceding the Controller's announcements is just one example.

Churl that I am, though, I can't help but feel that he can't quite cope with the very busy business of de An-

gelis's libretto. The number of characters is the problem: they all have so much to say for themselves, that Dove has to work overtime to find musical room for them. As a result, his vocal lines emerge as euphonious ariosos, but rarely expand to fill the stage, although Robson's falsetto *Refugee* comes closest.

By the same token, Dove's orchestra, expertly handled by David Parry, is at its best when at its biggest and brassiest, yet it seems to be running fast just to keep up, so that minimalist poundings and show-tune melodiousness repeatedly trip over each other. Only the middle act, when sex and death rear their heads, shows Dove in full



Ann Taylor as a stewardess in 'Flight'

Laurie Lewis

Flight. Yet, when all's said and done, the fact remains that the crowd went wild. Perhaps our critical cavils should be put aside, in the face of that all-too-rare achievement.

NICK KIMBERLEY

Glyndebourne touring Opera's production is at Glyndebourne, 26 September, 23 October (01273 813 813)

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today
In 1745 *God Save the King* was first sung, in the Drury Lane Theatre, as a way of raising two loyal fingers to Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was prowling about the countryside.

Tomorrow
This day in 1988 was when the Grim Reaper had the last laugh on cartoonist Charles Addams, who survives in his macabre collections entitled *Drawn and Quartered*, *Monster Rally*, *Dear Dead Days* and *Favourite Haunts*.

Wednesday
James Dean, 24, driving in his Porsche to take part in a motor race in 1955, crashed and died. He had just starred in a road safety commercial.

Thursday
Edwin Landseer, who died in 1850, was a painter of polar bears and dogs; he also did stags (*Monarch of the Glen* was produced for the House of Commons refreshment room) and lions (in Trafalgar Square).

Friday
In 1872 Phileas Fogg set off in Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*, giving Michael Palin a hard act to follow. *Faraway HILL*, the first soap opera, went out in 1946.

Saturday
The widely used Times Roman first appeared in *The Times* newspaper in 1932.

Sunday
Buster Keaton was born in 1895 and was literally stage-struck; at three he became *The Human Trip* with which his father swept the boards. JONATHAN SALE

When first impressions are tragic

Stefan Kiszko seemed to fit the profile of a child killer, but the courts were wrong – sadly wrong. By Clive King

According to the calendar it should be spring, but out on the freezing, rain-sodden Pennines it feels more like a nuclear winter. The eerie white-grey light certainly suits the mood of the scene unfolding before me; this morning television director Stephen Whittaker (best known for *Hearts and Minds*) is recreating the moment in October 1975 when the body of 11-year-old Lesley Molseed was discovered on the moors.

Lesley had been stabbed repeatedly and her clothes were stained with semen, so the police knew they were looking for a monster. Fate provided the perfect suspect when 23-year-old Stefan Kiszko came to their attention, accused of indecently exposing himself to two schoolgirls. Stefan was an awkward, overweight and uncommunicative man who still lived at home in Rochdale with his widowed mother, Charlotte. It took not so much a leap as a hop of imagination to cast him in the role of child-killer.

Remanded in custody, Stefan signed a confession to the murder, which he retracted almost immediately. This statement, made by a scared and confused man, formed the basis for the prosecution's case. Kiszko continued to protest his innocence, although his defence counsel, David Waddington QC, tried to persuade him to plead guilty on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Stefan was then sentenced to life imprisonment. On his first night in Wakefield Prison, he was beaten up by six other convicts. As a convicted child-killer, he was the lowest form of prison life; solitary confinement under Rule 43 failed to protect him from further attacks and exacerbated the slow disintegration of his mental health.

Despite a chronic lung disease, Charlotte campaigned tirelessly for her son's release. After years of being stonewalled by police, politicians and the legal system, she finally found a sympathetic solicitor, Campbell Malone, who unearthed vital forensic evidence that had not been presented at Kiszko's trial: the semen found on the victim's underwear contained sperm. Stefan

was sterile. Malone convinced David Waddington, who had risen through the ranks from QC to Home Secretary, to order a police re-investigation. Finally, 16 years after his conviction, a mis-trial was declared and Kiszko returned home.

"At one point, we were going to call the film *Scapegoat*, because that's really what it's all about," the film's producer, Malcolm Craddock tells me as we trudge through the glutinous mud to the welcome comfort of a pub. There we are joined by screenwriter Peter Berry and by Campbell Malone, who is acting as a consultant to the production. "I keep suggesting they should call it *Delusions of Innocence*," says Malone. "The authorities regarded Stefan as a schizophrenic with delusions of innocence."

In the event, the two-hour television drama has been called *A Life for a Life*, a movie-of-the-week title which fails to convey the delicate, unexploitative approach the film-makers have taken to their potentially sensational subject matter.

"Very shortly after Stefan's release, the Kiszkos received several serious approaches to make a film," recalls Malone. "Charlotte and Stefan were very much in favour of telling the story and I felt they should choose the people to do it. In a sense we auditioned the producers and directors."

Neither mother or son lived to see themselves portrayed by Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis and newcomer Tony Maudsley; Stefan suffered a fatal heart attack 18 months after his release and Charlotte passed away six months later.

"My impression when I met them was that they were completely bound together," remarks Craddock. "You know how sometimes you meet a married couple who are so dependent on each other that if one goes the other will go very, very quickly." He adds there was nothing "unwholesome" about this mother-son symbiosis, something Berry also stresses when he talks about the time he spent with the Kiszkos while researching the script.

The first time he met Stefan, Berry was confronted by his own prejudices: "I realised that if I had been on that jury, I might have



Posthumous rehabilitation: Tony Maudsley as the wronged Stefan Kiszko in 'A Life For a Life'

been swayed by the way he looked." Stefan's manner did nothing to assuage the writer's initial discomfort. "I sat down and talked to him and realised he wasn't talking back. He didn't say anything for the whole day. After 10 or 12 minutes, I ran out of sensible things to say and I thought 'I've blown this'."

"When I arrived the next day, he stood up and walked out. Then he returned, with the strongest cups of tea in the world, and talked just a little. On the third day, he was much more open. In the end, one of the difficulties I had was getting the information I needed for the story without making it too painful for Stefan."

Charlotte was much more forthcoming. "She could talk under wet cement," laughs Berry. "She would talk and talk and talk and talk. She'd say 'This is what you've got to get right, Mr Writer!'"

A Slovenian immigrant who came to Britain at 18, Charlotte was used to fighting her corner. Living in

post-war England with a Germanic accent and bringing up an odd-looking, socially awkward son made sure of that.

"I'm sure her maternal instinct was in overdrive," says Olympia Dukakis who, when we meet, has

had that kind of peasant mentality where you accept what God has given you, and take on the responsibility for it.

"Of course, that gets interpreted as being a domineering and over-protective mother. But she looked for ways to make him feel good about himself as any parent would. She encouraged his talents for music and languages. And when difficulty occurred, she didn't sit back and take the blows. She did something about it."

Dukakis got involved with the project when Craddock and Whittaker

met her at a BAFTA awards ceremony and recounted Stefan's tale. "I was very moved by their passion and their dedication," she recalls.

"It's really an incredible story. You think, 'My God, look at what these human beings went through!' And this wasn't war-torn Bosnia. This was England in the Seventies."

Media coverage of the original case depicted Stefan as a sex-crazed demon. After his release, he was reinvented as a bumbling, simple-minded dupe.

Charlotte deeply resented both portrayals of her son and entrusted the film-makers to redress the balance. Berry recalls how, at Stefan's wake, she took him aside and issued the firm instruction: "You tell the world about my son, how he really was."

The writer believes *A Life for a Life* may achieve more than the posthumous rehabilitation of Kiszko's image.

When Stefan walked free in 1992,

Lesley Molseed's father and siblings were plunged back into a 16-year-old nightmare. The family expressed their sorrow at Stefan's false imprisonment and have been calling ever since for the true killer to be brought to justice.

Berry hopes the film will result in the case being re-opened: "If the real murderer were found, we would also have done some service for the Molseed family."

Since the verdict on Kiszko was declared unsafe, Campbell Malone has been inundated with requests and pleas to handle alleged miscarriages of justice.

"It's alarming," he says. "If just a tenth of them are genuine, there are a lot of people in our prisons who shouldn't be there. But how do you judge? Do you go by what someone looks like? After all, that is what happened to Stefan."

A Life for a Life is on ITV at 9pm on Sunday

Give us what we don't want

Radio 4 has responded to its audience. Is this a good thing? By Robert Hanks

Of course, you remember the heady days of 1991, when the people arose as one and marched in their thousands on Broadcasting House, crying "Save Radio 4". Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, and to be middle-class was very heaven. You do remember that, don't you?

Well, possibly not, because it did not actually happen. What did happen that year, when there was talk of taking Radio 4 off long-wave altogether, was that a middling-sized crowd - Radio 4 thinks it was about 500 people - strolled up Langham Place politely chorusing: "What do we want? Radio 4 to stay on long-wave. What do we say? Please!" And, just as you were told when you were a child that you are far more likely to get what you want if you ask nicely, Radio 4 did stay on long wave.

It does not do to exaggerate the effect of popular protest on Radio 4. It has become more or less a ritual now: whenever change of any sort on the station is announced, for the press to talk of middle England in revolt. It does not really happen.

Since the "Save Radio 4 Long Wave" campaign, itself a much less dressy affair than the coverage might have led you to suspect, we have seen the *Anderson Country* putsch - when the brilliant Irish broadcaster Gerry Anderson, given a slot wildly unsuited to his talents, became the object of what amounted to a hate campaign in the press and on Radio 4's own *Feedback*.

And we have also had such minor spats as the Free Susan Carter campaign, when self-indulgent *Archers* fans decided to go public with their silliness. But there has been no really big protest; and when James Boyle, the station's new controller, announced at the end of last year that there would be a grand



Listening to the listeners: Radio 4 controller James Boyle

shake-up of the schedules, what was most remarkable was how meekly the public took the news.

But that is not to say that the middle-classes are not worried about Radio 4. People take radio very personally and can get very proprietorial about it; and with Radio 4, class solidarity plays a part - no other institution binds the middle-classes together quite so firmly.

To mess with it wantonly may not lead to quite the level of popular dis-

content that the press likes to suggest, but it can lead to some unpleasant publicity.

So James Boyle has treated the Radio 4 audience with kid gloves. Before April's schedule changes were finalised, he undertook a lengthy consultation process, with questionnaires, public meetings, focus groups and all the paraphernalia of modern democracy.

Last week, he announced that, in response to listeners' opinions, as-

pects of the new schedules were being changed: instead of a quiz every day at 1.30pm, there would now be a feature two days a week. And he would be "restoring" the two-minute news bulletin at 9am (a nicely Orwellian touch this - it always used to be a five-minute news bulletin at 9am).

So, the views of the listener are being respected; and really, we should start to get worried.

What we now have on Radio 4 is a schedule tailored to fit what we have told marketing surveys we really want: the programmes have got shorter; the serials have fewer episodes; the serious analysis of current affairs has been trimmed; and in some cases (like the once-excellent *Consequences*, unique for looking at the social effects of legislation) turned into weedy sociology.

No doubt we really did say this was what we wanted, but that is no excuse. Getting what you want is awful. As TS Eliot said in 1962, giving evidence to the Pilkington Committee on the Future of Broadcasting: "Those who aim to give the public what the public wants begin by underestimating the public taste; they end by debauching it."

Or put it this way: don't you hate it when the only presents you get for Christmas are the ones you asked for? It is surprises that make Christmas worthwhile; it is the things that you did not ask for that make life worth living.

So if it is really true that Radio 4 is now responding to the opinions of its audience, then that audience knows what it must do: march in our thousands on Broadcasting House, and demand as rudely as we like that James Boyle will start giving us programmes we do not want.

You know it makes sense.

A nation in tune

AIRWAVES

ANTHONY PAYNE

AFTER EARNESTLY scanning the pages of *Radio Times* for programmes that seem to invite comment, one's planned listening schedule can be unexpectedly overturned by serendipity. It will have escaped few people's notice that last week saw the televising of the Commonwealth Games, not an event of great musical significance, you might say.

But there were a number of intriguing opportunities to hear unfamiliar national anthems at the medal ceremonies, and there was also the chance to experience a rendering of "Land of Hope and Glory" which I will always cherish. Remember, there are no UK athletes at the games and so "God Save the Queen" is not used. We had already heard a thoroughly respectable version of Elgar's great tune, when suddenly, for no apparent reason, another was blasted forth over the speakers with iconoclastic gusto. Sue Barker pulled a face and thought that the band should have practised a bit more, but the performance's inspired-out-of-tuneness will have delighted the shade of Charles Ives, or indeed anybody who believes that perfect intonation does not guarantee exciting expression.

Next, after settling down to catch up with a programme I had recorded the previous day, I mistakenly pressed "radio" instead of "tape" and found myself listening to an item in Michael White's *Best of Three*, a son of *Pick of the Week*. He had chosen an excerpt from a new series, *Opera in Action*, whose *Radio Times* billing had not promised much. Just an-



other sequence of big tunes with casual linking material, or so it seemed. I should have had more faith, for presenter Ruth Mackenzie, of Scottish Opera, fired a shot across the bows of the "sound-byte" brigade by placing *Nessun Dorma* sensibly in context, and showing just how much we missed when divorcing it from the surrounding drama. Puccini and indeed many other opera composers would, Mackenzie insisted, have been horrified to discover how their dramatic vision was being distorted by treating arias as isolated miniatures.

Encouraged, I tuned to Ms Mackenzie's second programme, unpromisingly described as a selection of opera highlights, and was not disappointed. This was far from being your standard sequence of operatic goodies. True, the music chosen was from the well-worn standard repertoire but everything that Mackenzie had to say proclaimed a searching mind and a profound awareness of the multi-layered expression of great music

theatre. One of her most arresting perceptions concerned the "freeze-frames" - memorable image - of which music drama is capable, where action is temporarily stilled to examine the complexities of character and motivation behind a critical dramatic moment.

Constantly digging below the surface of a familiar number, she showed how opposed temporal perspectives could be articulated and how an audience's knowledge can be played off against a stage character's. Thoroughly recommended for further listening.

As for the tape I had been attempting to listen to: that proved worthwhile too. It covered the latter half of BBC Radio 3's "Danube Week" which brought us concerts and opera from Vienna, Eisenstadt and Budapest, while the mid-morning *Sound Stories* journeyed from the river's source to its outlet. The area's exotic cultural mix and bloody history were explored in depth by Donald Macleod. Ovid, Vlad the Impaler, Haydn, Bartok - all was here.

2025.09.28

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

12.30pm, 5.20pm, 8pm, 8.30pm
 Saving Private Ryan 12.20pm,
 4pm, 7.40pm There's Something
 About Mary 12noon, 2.40pm,
 5.20pm, 8.10pm The X-Files
 5.25pm, 8.05pm

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MONDAY TELEVISION

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 28 September 1998

NICHOLAS LEZARD
TELEVISION REVIEW



WHEN I WAS about ten years old, during his presidency, someone told me an Edward Heath joke. Q. Why does Edward Heath wear a white shirt? A. Because he doesn't like to look down on the unemployed. I didn't get it. (Cynic, Edward Heath doesn't wear a white shirt.) I thought the joke also implied that he was not really concerned, in a sort of half-way, a figure of fun, but not a roaring one, and well, not just that he was serious, but that there was something not quite right about him. He wasn't perfect. The Macmillan, ability like Wilson, double like Callaghan, or the qualifications of all human and the Thatcher.

So Edward Heath's Profile (BBC2) was unexpectedly interesting. Flashing out, as it were, for he has faded himself out. Literally very well, the man who was described as "a silver lining for a gloomier sky". The term that he was a minority's hope? And the Thatcherism? He had not been enough about Thatcherism before the way to speak the language of Thatcherism. It became pre-Thatcherism after it. In other words, the kind of thing never happened again.

But what we really wanted was some opinion about the success or failure of the Tories. We had to wait for this. The interview, Michael Gove, watching a clip of the election victory, said "You don't look very elated." "Do you expect me, said Heath, 'to throw up my arms and say 'rejoice, rejoice'?"

When Thatcher lost the leadership "I was said you rang your office and said 'rejoice, rejoice'." "I said it three times," replied Heath, "rejoice, rejoice, rejoice." (Gig gas) Now that was James's own idea?



YOUR TELEVISION'S CRYING OUT FOR OCTOBER 1st.

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (5755), 7.00 News (1) (4729), 8.00 Kinky (5) (724684), 8.40 Sive Challenge (5) (798374), 10.05 Top Tip Challenge (5) (815303), 10.30 Daily Live (5) (1) (475757), 10.45 News: Regional News: Weather (1) (389883).
- 11.00 Labour Party Conference. Live coverage from Blackpool begins with a debate on the economy and a speech by Chancellor Gordon Brown (5) (1) (7469).
- 1.00 News: Weather (1) (4208), 1.30 Regional News: Weather (445832), 1.40 News: Weather (5) (798374), 2.00 Breakers (5) (294885), 2.25 Country (5) (778883), 2.45 The Weather Show (5) (1) (265732), 3.25 Microscopic Million (5) (74455).
- 3.30 Children's BBC: Playdays (5) (724684), 3.40 Enchanted Lands: The Magic of the Faraway Tree (5) (827705), 3.45 Little Monsters (5) (45395), 4.05 The Animal Magic Show (5) (1) (803084), 4.20 Casper (5) (1) (804208), 4.40 Goosebumps (5) (1) (888705), 5.00 Newsround (5) (1) (802303), 5.10 Blue Peter (5) (1) (858003), 5.35 Newsround (5) (1) (450854).
- 6.00 News: Weather (1) (93).
- 6.30 Regional News: And weather (1) (93).
- 7.00 This is Your Life. Another celebrity meets the old headmaster. The demented well-groomed Michael Aspel sprays the trap (5) (1) (819).
- 7.20 Here and Now. Ex-soldiers claiming compensation for post-traumatic stress and the growing number of overweight British children attending "fat camps" in America (5) (1) (7897).
- 8.00 EastEnders. Tony's plans for a new life, while Larry and Mick try their hand at modern art. Remember modern art? (5) (1) (7897).
- 8.30 Children's Magazine. Light, camera, action as a four-year-old is trained to casually after being bitten by a dog (5) (1) (827).
- 9.00 News: Regional News: Weather (1) (8595).
- 9.30 Neighbours at War. You might remember the Newmarket man, driven to distraction by the neighbour's crowing cockerles. Heads an update (5) (1) (8574).
- 10.00 Panorama. "Whodunnit?" Reporter Sarah Powell investigates the growing army of hitlers or semi-hitting, home and abroad in the UK, a veritable stress test for a modern night (5) (1) (85303).
- 10.40 [GIRL] Omnibus: Cat People. The fall of influence on art and culture. See Arts Programme of the Day, below (5) (1) (746428).
- 11.35 Chicago Hope (5) (1) (82577), 12.20 World Science (5) (1) (798320).
- 12.40 [GIRL] Earth vs the Spider (Barl Gordon 1988 US). Big-standard giant-spider totemism, with a few amusing low-budget effects and a little bit of sci-fi. Another Filles hemisphere from William LeBaron's dad disappears in some local cases, the network decides to investigate. You can guess the rest (830804).
- 1.25 Johnnie BBC News 24 (854086), to beam.

BBC2

- 7.00 Children's BBC: Telethon (5) (798380), 7.25 Smurfs Adventure (5) (858207), 7.45 Blue Peter (5) (1) (458877), 8.00 News: Weather (1) (93), 8.30 The Hour of the Wolf (5) (1) (82455), 8.45 Henry and the Hendersons (5) (1) (82455), 9.10 Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 9.20 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 9.30 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 9.40 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 9.50 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 10.00 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 10.10 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 10.20 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 10.30 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 10.40 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 10.50 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 11.00 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 11.10 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 11.20 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 11.30 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 11.40 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 11.50 The Story of the Week (5) (1) (82455), 12.00 The 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